

GIANT FULL-COLOR PINUP OF TONY GAREA & RICK MARTEL

Feb 1982
\$1.50

DELL
04683

PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED

**Ric Flair vs Harley Race:
THE PRICE OF BEING
CHAMPION IS BLOOD**



**Conclusive
Evidence:
HOW BOB
BACKLUND'S
TITLE IS
SAVED
BY THE
REFEREES**



**KEN PATERA-
MAN ON THE RUN...
FROM HIMSELF**

**Special Ballot: VOTE FOR
THE TOP WRESTLERS OF 1981!**



KING'S COURT

By Peter King



Jack Brisco grabs Bruiser Brody by his beard and fires a long-range left hook. Brisco is regaining the form that brought him to the NWA championship in 1973. Jack defeated Ted DiBiase for the Missouri state belt in a memorable scientific encounter.

"DUSTY RHODES, all right, Wahoo, Tommy Rich, Koloff . . ." Jack Brisco's voice was a drone as he recited the NWA ratings. In Brisco's hand was a copy of the January 1982 *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*. "Peter Maivia, and last but not least, John Studd." Having finished reading aloud the top 10, Brisco closed the magazine and put it gently on the floor. "There seems to be a name missing, don't you think?"

Indeed there was. Jack

Brisco, a former NWA champion, was not rated. While most wrestlers would become loud and violent at such a slight, Brisco conducted himself like a gentleman. He was curious, not angry.

When it was explained to him that our ratings are based on performance and opinion, Brisco smiled. "What you're trying to say as nicely as possible is you guys thought I was over the hill? You folks had written me off as a title threat.



A familiar sight in 1973 and 1974, Brisco has successfully defended his NWA title.

Now I bet you feel just a little foolish," Brisco laughed, showing he had no hard feelings. It was the laugh of a winner.

Jack Brisco is once again at the threshold of the world championship. After a few years of bouncing up and down in the ratings, Brisco appears ready to return to the form that made him one of the greatest amateur and professional champions in history. It is one of the great stories of the year, a testament that nice guys can finish first.

"There's no doubt I went into a tailspin for a while," Brisco admitted. "After losing the NWA belt to Terry Funk a few years ago, I sort of lost my direction. I got down on myself. I suppose I really did lose some confidence. And when an athlete starts doubting himself, well, it's trouble. Hey, I guess I was lucky to survive all these years. I look back at myself and

(Continued on page 49)

RINGSIDE

With Bill Apter



Rick Steamboat, applying the figure-four leglock that led to his Mid-Atlantic championship victory over Ivan Koloff, has set his sights on the U.S. belt held by the hated Sgt. Slaughter.

BLACKJACK MULLIGAN JR.'s feelings and pride have been hurt, and very severely at that. It seems Blackjack's friend, Wayne Farris, is also a friend of Blackjack's hated rival, Kevin Sullivan. Farris had to make a choice: either stay in with Mulligan and receive the wrath of Sullivan, Bobby Eaton, and manager Jimmy Holliday, or return to the open arms of "the fold."

Mulligan Jr. figured Farris would stay on the honorable side of the sport. But then an ugly incident transpired. Farris wrestled young Tim Horner and took the victory with a sleeperhold. As Horner lay unconscious on the mat, the Sullivan gang came to ringside and began screaming at Farris not to wake Horner up. Mulligan Jr. came to ringside and encouraged his friend to wake him

up. Farris refused, left the ring, and Mulligan woke Horner up. This angered Farris who, along with Sullivan's gang, jumped Mulligan and pulverized him. A feud, a very bitter and ugly one, has begun.

Rick Steamboat, who finally beat Ivan Koloff for the Mid-Atlantic title, is now after the U.S. belt currently held by the despised Sgt. Slaughter.

(Continued on page 50)

DRESSING CORRIDOR

By Stu Saks

If THE SPORT of professional wrestling wishes to gain control of approximately 50 percent of its participants, who, for lack of a better label, we call rulebreakers, it can do so. The sport, after all, is not without a rulebook.

Recently, the National Wrestling Alliance called a meeting of its top officials and promoters to discuss what it termed the "laxity of referees" and reinforced some of the rules that the Alliance thought were too frequently being broken.

The following rule clarifications are excerpted from the minutes of the meeting:

1) Ten count outside the ring on the arena floor to get back in the ring.

2) Illegal hold must be broken on four count; five count is disqualification.

3) Stranglehold is not legal. Repeated use of the strangle hold draws disqualification.

4) Jumping on an opponent from the top rope draws an automatic disqualification.

5) Eye gouging is a violation of the rules. Repeated eye gouging draws disqualification.

6) Contact on the arena floor is double disqualification.

7) Chop or karate permissible, except in or to the throat.

8) Punch with closed fist is a



The National Wrestling Alliance has taken steps to ensure that this kind of dangerous encounter between Ric Flair and Paul Jones does not happen again. As soon as both combatants touch the arena floor, the referees are to order a double disqualification.

rule violation. Repeated use of the fist draws disqualification.

9) Pushing, shoving, striking a referee draws automatic disqualification and also carries a mandatory fine and, according to the situation, can bring about suspension.

10) Continued verbal abuse of a referee can bring about a disqualification or fine, and

continued verbal abuse in or outside the ring can also bring suspension.

It is important to note that these are not new rules. They have been in the book, but sometimes are not enforced.

Looking closely at these points, the most drastic seems to be number six. Apparently the

(Continued on page 52)

A—ON—ASSIGNMENT

BY STEVEN FARHOO

A DOUBLE ASSIGNMENT This month, the Hagler-Hamsho middleweight boxing title bout and an interview with the former NWA champion, Dusty Rhodes, both in Chicago. Hagler-Hamsho was a terrific struggle between two fine fighters. So much for boxing. Give me a couple of hours with a wrestler over the cauliflower-ear brigade anytime.

Interviewing Dusty was not easy. The American Dream has



been a top wrestling superstar for many years. The first time he won the elusive NWA title he held it for less time than it takes to fly to Bangkok. Harley Race won it back, and before Dusty knew what it was to be a champion, he was just another contender again. This time, the title reign was longer, 2½



Dusty Rhodes, who has held the NWA title for more than two months in his two combined title reigns, contemplates his future (left). Ric Flair punishes Rhodes en route to his championship victory (above).

months. Hardly long enough, however. Dusty was beaten by the new king, Ric Flair, in Kansas City.

I expected a fairly cheerful Dusty. He is an even-tempered man (don't go by his erratic ring behavior), and when I interviewed him after he lost the title the first time he was optimistic and hopeful. So when we met at the coffee shop of the Holiday Inn in Rosemont, Illinois (Dusty was in the Chicago area for a meeting with his tax accountant), I was shocked to see him depressed and downcast.

"How you doin' champ?" I asked him, faking a cheerful tone. Former champions in

both boxing and wrestling love it when you call them "champ." But Rhodes didn't go for the bait.

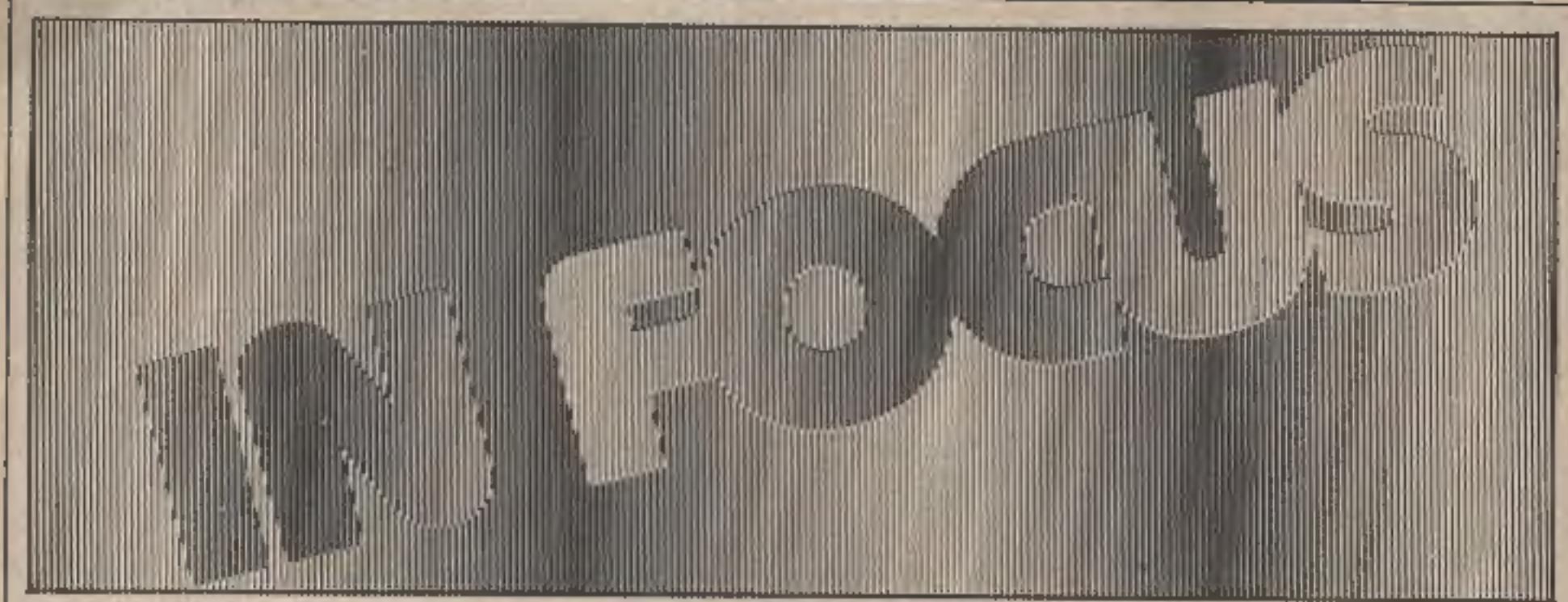
"Steve," he answered, "you know I lost the title. So don't call me champ, okay?"

Hardly a promising note to start an interview.

I ordered a bacon cheeseburger and rice pudding. Dusty ordered two helpings of blueberry pancakes, without syrup, and a bowl of cottage cheese. Right then, I knew he was in a bad emotional state. He always orders syrup with his pancakes.

"Is it worse this time?" I asked him, knowing he would know

(Continued on page 54)



With CRAIG PETERS

LOU'S LATEST IS GREATEST

Believe it or not, a tip of the hat goes to none other than Captain Lou Albano. As tag team manager supreme, he has led nearly a dozen pairs to the WWF championship. Unfortunately, he's done it with combinations like the Moondogs and the Samoans. Now, he has come up with a pair that not only is likely to follow the Albano tradition of champions, but may actually deserve the belts as well! It's Mr. Fuji and Mr. Saito, and they are as fine a tag team pair as



SAITO, ALBANO, AND FUJI

you will find anywhere. Even though you may not feel Albano deserves any of your respect, take a second look at Fuji and Saito . . . they deserve consideration as tomorrow's potential champions. If you ask me, tomorrow is not too far off.



FLAIR VS. RHODES

END OF THE RHODES

This one falls into the "close but no cigar" category. Two months back on this very page I wrote that Dusty Rhodes is not quite my idea of the American

Dream, and that someone else should come along to dethrone him. At the time I predicted either Ted DiBiase or Tommy Rich. Well, like they say: close only counts in horseshoes and hand grenades . . . but at least Dusty is outta there! Hearty congratulations go to Ric Flair, the new NWA titleholder. It remains to be seen how this champion will conduct himself in his new and important position, but the coming of Flair as champion is a breath of fresh air to everyone who follows the NWA.

TOO SELECTIVE

Nick Bockwinkel sits upon his AWA throne and continues to dictate who will and will not get a shot at his championship title. Well, Hulk Hogan has been trying for some time to get a title match, but Bockwinkel continues to ignore all requests for said match. It seems that a champion has the paramount responsibility to answer any



NICK BOCKWINKEL

and all challenges to his title, not only those he feels he can easily win. It looks as if Hogan may have to bring pressure against Bockwinkel in much the same way as Tony Atlas had to in order to get his shot at the title. It's a shame to see the state of title challenges come to this point. Bockwinkel should be accepting any title challenge that comes along, regardless of who it comes from.

If you wish to contribute to Shocket's mailbag, send your letters to:

TOP ROPE
Box 48
Rockville Centre, N.Y.
11571

OFF THE ROPE

By Dan Shocket

BEFORE BEGINNING THE serious business of this column, I'd like to quote a few Ted DiBiase jokes. As you might remember, I asked readers to send in jokes best describing Mr. DiBiase. Here are a couple of the best:

* Why did Ted DiBiase get fired as an elevator operator? He got lost on the job.—Jack Donahue, Taunton, MA

* Why does Ted DiBiase only smell good on his right side? He doesn't know where to buy "Left Guard."—Rick Shea, West Haven, CT

And now one of many differing opinions:

Dear Mr. Shocket:

Mr. Shocket, let's get right to the point. I'm reading *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*/September and see your column. I cannot understand why a human being such as yourself can talk the way you do about other human beings such as Ted DiBiase and Tommy Rich. They are very good wrestlers and very, very good people.

Why would you do something cruel like ask for Ted DiBiase jokes? If people send in jokes,



Ted DiBiase, the butt of everybody's jokes, locks up the left arm of Jimmy Valiant. Hey, the fun has just begun. If you people have any more original DiBiase jokes, send them along.

then they are dumber than you and that's damn dumb. If you had half the brains that Ted has in his little finger, then you would be half way decent. I don't mean to be getting nasty, but if we're all adults, as I assume we are, you're setting a very bad example for young people.

DAWN HAVERT
DeLand, FL

Dear Ms. Havert:

First, let me congratulate you on your restraint. Most of the letters objecting to the joke contest were written by people who use the bathroom wall as a dictionary. They were people whose lack of sense of humor was equal to their lack of any other sense.

Now, to answer your letter. I'm not here to guide the youth

of America. They can take care of themselves. They can also choose between the merits of a fraud like DiBiase and the true skills of a man like Ken Patera. They just need both sides of the story.

As for being cruel, we are not talking about a garden tea party. Wrestling is a cruel sport. Reporting about it must be just as "cruel," if you believe honesty is cruelty.

Dear Mr. Shocket:

I would like to know what you think about wrestlers acting as referees. I don't like it, although I like "scientific wrestlers." I still think any wrestler, no matter who, deserves a fair shake.

When I last attended wrestling at Madison Square Garden, Pat Patterson was guest referee in a match between Bob Backlund and Angelo Mosca. Patterson counted slowly when Backlund was in danger of being pinned and "fast" when Mosca was being pinned. Patterson declared Backlund the winner even though Mosca's foot was on the rope during the pin.

Can something be done



Bob Backlund helps special referee Pat Patterson out of the ring after Patterson helped Backlund retain his title. Could you blame King Kong Mosca for hitting that bum?



It stands to reason, if Bad Leroy Brown can turn to scientific wrestling, I should start being a supporter of scientific wrestlers. At least that's the way wrestling fans reason.

about this? I would rather see a fair match than a prejudiced bout.

CHRIS CORDOZA
Brooklyn, NY

Dear Mr. Cordoza:

Hallelujah! It's about time the fans of scientific wrestlers realized what's been going on. Patterson just doesn't have the subtle techniques of a professional referee. They're all corrupt; Patterson just couldn't handle it. What can be done about this? Start boeing when bums like Backlund are given matches. Let the commissioners know you won't be fooled.

Dear Dopey Dan,

While you still have the chance, join the scientific

wrestlers and forget the rule-breaking bums.

Michael Hayes did, Victor Rivera did, and so did Bad Leroy Brown. Dusty Rhodes held the NWA championship while slime Harley Race rots away. Bob Backlund continues to clean up the scum of the WWF. And to call Nick Bockwinkel a champ is like calling you a good writer.

Face it, Shocket, everyone's turning good, and before you know it, so will you.

ROBERT GARIPPA
Brooklyn, NY

Dear Ridiculous Robert,

Let's hope we both live long enough to see me become a supporter of scientific wrestlers. □

Every issue, three reporters from PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED will participate in an incisive press conference with a top wrestling star. The questions will be demanding. And the answers will reveal the innermost thoughts of the giants of the sport

**PRESS
CONFERENCE**

**BRUNO
SAMMARTINO**

(There is no possible way to measure the contributions that have been made to the sport of wrestling by Bruno Sammartino. His career has spanned more than two decades and he has literally written most of the history of the squared circle single-handedly during that time. His tenure as champion for nearly eight years straight is the longest in WWF history. Interviewed by Associate Editors Stu Saks and Steve Farhood, along with veteran wrestling journalist Matt Brock, Bruno talks about his career and his plans for the future.)

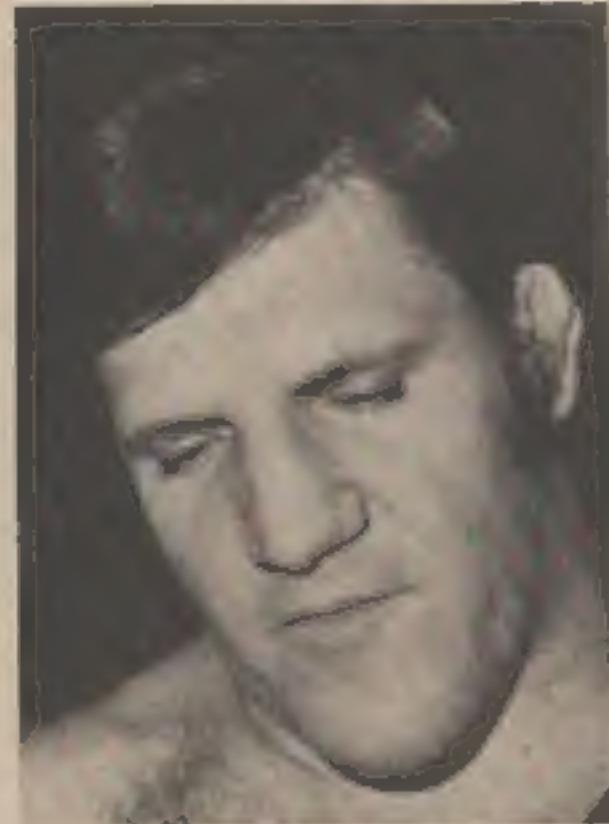
STU SAKS: Welcome to "Press Conference," Bruno, and I've got to say right off the bat, I'm a little disappointed that you've decided to retire.

BRUNO SAMMARTINO: Well, Stu, I want to thank you for your concern. A lot of people have been expressing the same kinds of thoughts to me, and I must admit that I'm very touched by it. It's nice to know that there are so many people out there, so many fans who are so concerned about what I'm going to be doing, and about the fact that I'm leaving.

STEVE FARHOOD: Why, exactly, are you leaving at this time? It looks to me as if you're in great shape. You could have



"I'm in a good position right now, I'm healthy, I'm strong . . . I'm getting out while I'm still ahead of the game, while I'm still on top."



maybe a dozen more years left!
SAMMARTINO: You know, Steve, I've been in this sport for 22 years. I'm in a good position right now, I'm healthy, I'm strong. I don't want to be in the ring 10 years from now and hear the people at ringside talking to each other, saying stuff like, "Hey, look at that bum. That's Bruno Sammartino. He used to be great once." That's a terrible thing to have happen to anybody, and doggone it, it's not gonna happen to me. I'm getting out while I'm ahead of the game, while I'm still on top.
SAKS: What about the charges that the return of Larry Zbyszko is forcing you into retirement?

SAMMARTINO: Zbyszko is a *buffo*, a buffoon. The people who make such charges are even worse. I won't even stoop to answer them.

MATT BROCK: Bruno, you've had some great matches over the years, but your match against Buddy Rogers in '63 has to be the peak.

SAMMARTINO: That's right, Matt, May 17, 1963 to be exact. Earlier in that year, there was a lot of controversy going on between some promoters in the Northeast and the National Wrestling Alliance. The WWF was formed out of that controversy, and Buddy Rogers won the title in a tournament. Well, May 17 rolled around,

and I got my shot at the champion. I got to tell you, it made the Gerry Cooney-Ken Norton fight look like it went the distance! I finished off Rogers in 48 seconds flat! Less than a minute to gain the title, and my reign lasted for almost eight years. Well, seven years, eight months, and one day to be exact. Anyway, it was the longest title reign in WWF history, and I'm very proud about that.

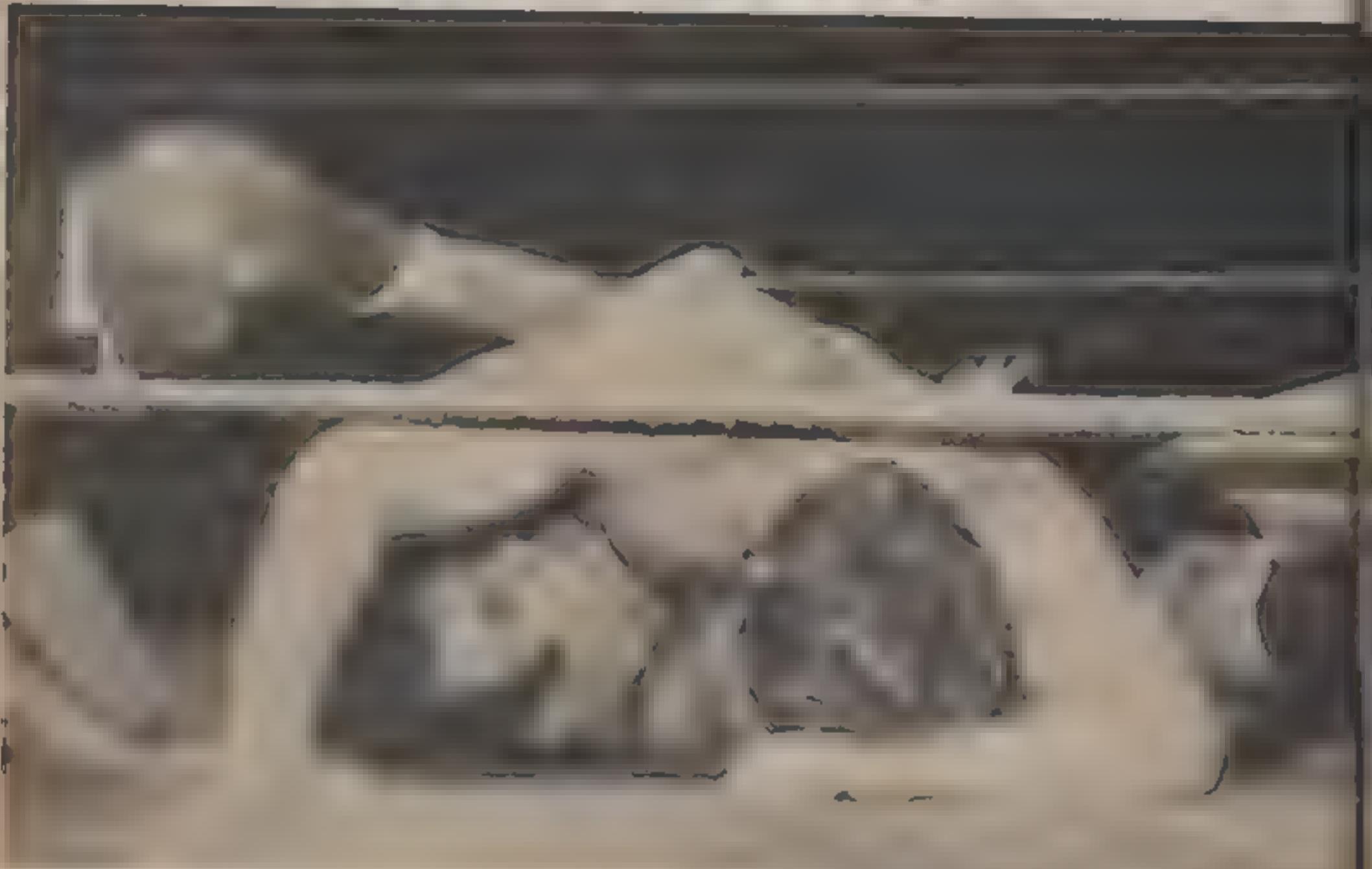
FARHOOD: So Bruno, you mean to say that you don't have any desire to regain that championship once more?

SAMMARTINO: Listen, Steve, there's something to be

(Continued on page 62)

Conclusive Evidence

HOW BOB BACKLUND'S TITLE IS SAVED BY THE



THE MAIL—and the accusations—have begun to pour in to this office. A random sampling

"At Madison Square Garden in the Texas Death Match between Bob Backlund and the Magnificent Muraco, Backlund once again proved that bribery is the only way he can win... The referee failed to see Muraco's foot on the rope during the count

"I recall seeing Bob Backlund on the *Warner Wolf Show* several months ago... He stated that since becoming WWF champion, his salary has increased ninefold. Any wrestling fan in the New York area (especially the referee) can tell you how he has been spending his extra income." Kelly Donovan, Rumson, NJ

Yet opinions differ, as

expressed by the following

The match was a Texas Death Match in which Bob Backlund pinned Magnificent Muraco. Now Muraco had his foot on the bottom rope to stop the count. Muraco argued, but he forgot it was a Texas Death Match and anything goes." Alan Meltzer, Bellmore, NY

Now, does "anything goes" mean that even the most

PHOTOS BY BILL APTER & STU SAKS

For years, accusations have been made and charges have been leveled against WWF champion Bob Backlund. Cheat! Payoff! Biased referees! Unfortunately for Backlund, photographs do not lie. The evidence exists, but is Backlund to be held responsible for the actions of the referees?

REFEREES



Pictured are three instances in which the referee did not spot Bob Backlund's opponent's foot draped across the bottom rope. Left: Backlund retains his title against King Kong Mosca. Above: Backlund wins the WWF title from Superstar Graham in 1978. Below: Magnificent Muraco is in stunned disbelief with his foot still on the rope.

rudimentary rules of the sport are suspended as well? In her letter to Don Muraco Khanh Vu of Jersey City, New Jersey, does not seem to think so

I was very disappointed and upset when the referee gave back the title to Backlund. I saw you put your leg on the rope, but damn the referee... he's blind and he gave Backlund the title.

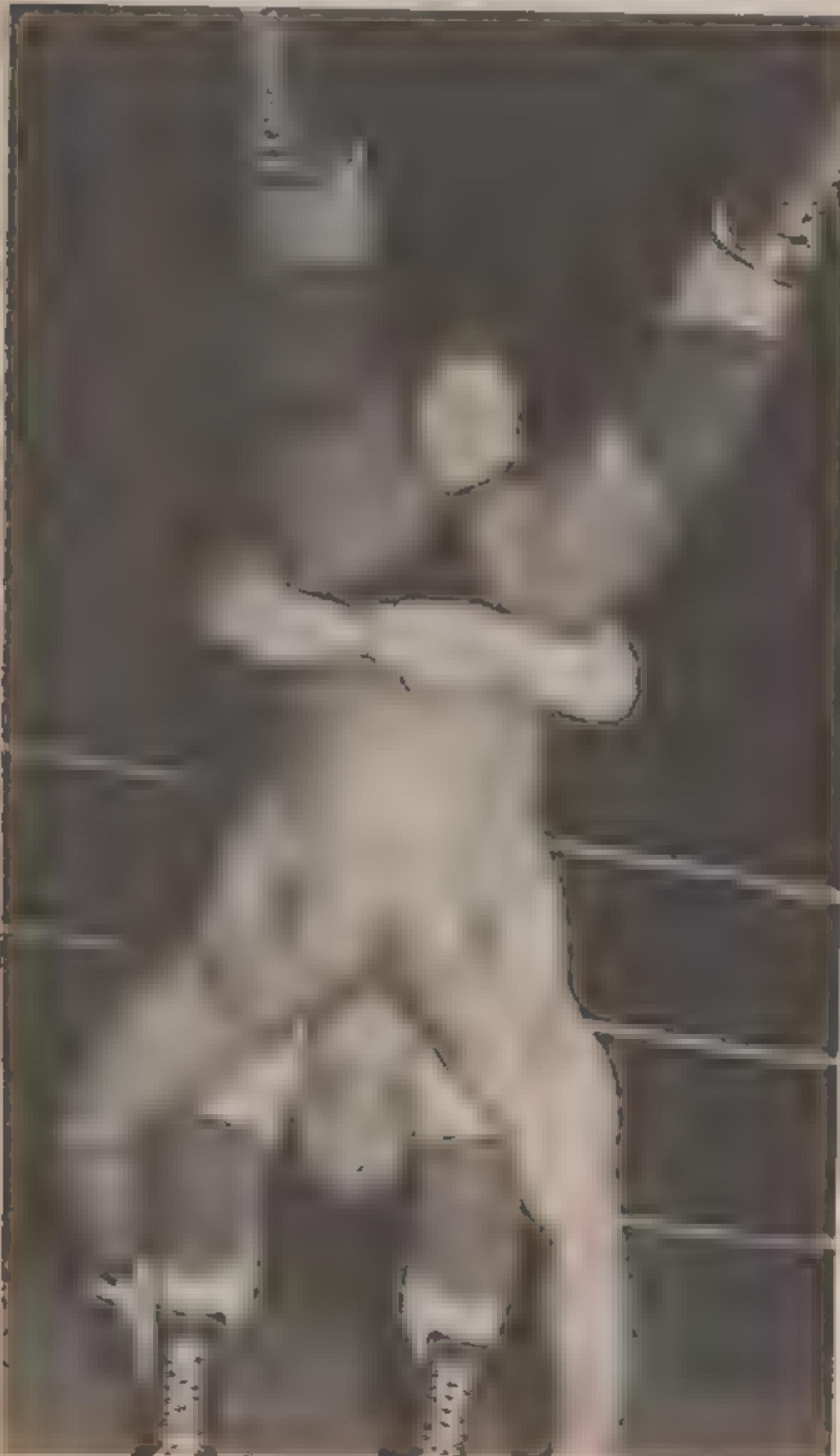
Jostled into action by these,

and dozens of letters like them, Pro Wrestling Illustrated's crack investigative reporting team decided to look into the matter. The evidence that was uncovered was both startling and undeniable: time and again Bob Backlund has had his title saved through "selectively negligent" action on the part of the referees involved in the match. Let's review the facts.

The date is February 20, 1978. The place: New York's Madison Square Garden. Reigning WWF champion Superstar Graham is slated to defend his title against Bob Backlund. He will not succeed. Backlund will be awarded the title, despite the fact that Graham's foot is resting on the rope as the referee makes the count.

Slightly more than three years

Backlund executes a piledriver on Muraco. There is some question over whether or not this dangerous move is legal in the WWF. Many wrestlers have had their necks broken from the impact of the maneuver, and Federation officials have planned a rules interpretation meeting to decide its fate.



later, in the same arena, Bob Backlund defends his title against King Kong Mosca. Pat Patterson acts as special referee in the match. Once again, a packed house looks on as

Backlund retains his title, regardless of the fact that Mosca's foot is on the ropes during the count.

Now, a title defense against Magnificent Muraco hot on the heels of their one-hour time limit draw match, stirs up the same controversy. Fans at ringside and up towards the rafters screamed. The next day, they began sending letters. All had seen the same thing occur once again: Muraco's foot had been resting on the ropes.

These are but three instances in a repeating pattern that has developed since Backlund gained the title. In some cases only verbal evidence from observers at the scene exists. In many other cases, clear photographic confirmation exists. In all cases, Backlund's title becomes suspect.

Pro Wrestling Illustrated went straight to the top—the offices of the World Wrestling Federation and its president, Hisashi Shinma.

"I can appreciate the position that men like Mr. Muraco, Mr. Graham, and Mr. Mosca are in," said Shinma. "It is unfortunate that things like this occur in what should otherwise be an honorable, sportsmanlike institution of man-to-man competition. Yet the rules of the World Wrestling Federation are quite clear: once a decision is made by a referee, there is nothing that can change it."

"Consider the case of Mr. Backlund gaining the title from Mr. Graham," continued Shinma. "Even if a photographer had an instant camera and came to us immediately after the match, say that evening, with a photo of Mr. Graham's foot on the rope, we still are not able to reverse the decision. It is like being in a baseball game: the decision of the umpire is final and absolute. It is the same here."

(Continued on page 64)

WHAT THEY ARE SAYING

Every month, our reporters will compile wrestlers' most revealing quotes. Often catching the grapplers with their guards down, our reporters will work endlessly in obtaining interesting quotes on a variety of subjects

"Look, just because a few damn brothers are slowing down my progress towards destroying Lou Thesz's record doesn't mean that they'll be successful. The days of the Von Erich brothers are numbered, and I'll move on to the title, to a seventh championship and a spot at the top of the record books."



CAPTAIN LOU ALBANO

"I'm telling you right now, babies, and all you gotta do is listen to the ol' Captain when he says that before you know it, these guys Garea and Martel will be out of the championship so fast their stupid little heads will be swimming because the masters, the absolute best today, are none other than Mr. Fuji and Mr. Saito, and they're going all the way, and you can take that to the bank!"



MAGNIFICENT MURACO

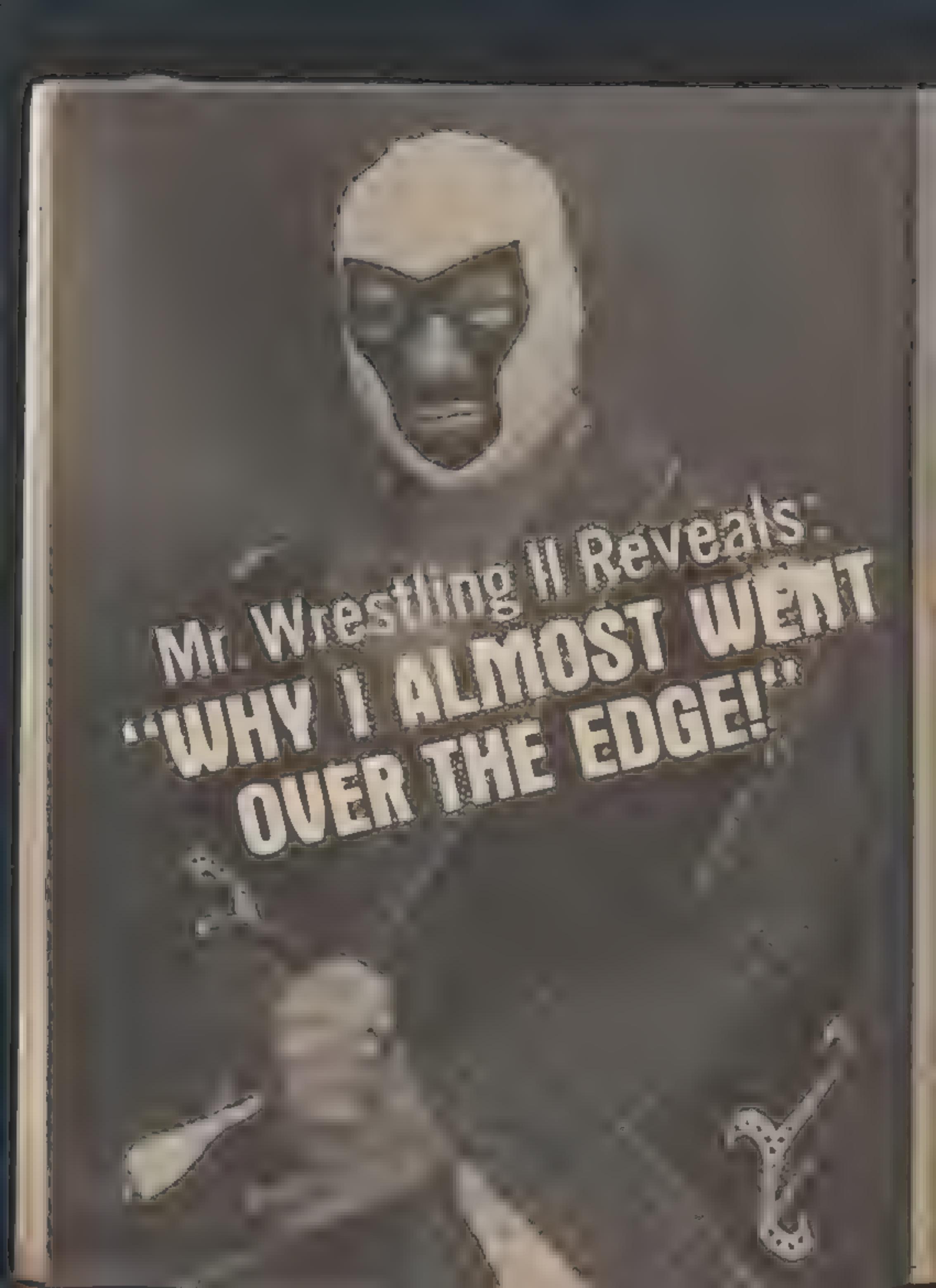
"That slimy weasel Backlund thinks he's the champion, but everybody knows that I deserved to win my rematch with him. The most basic rule in wrestling is that when a wrestler's foot is on the rope the hold must be broken. Instead of breaking Backlund's hold, the referee counted me out. Sounds a little bit less than ethical to me, if you know what I mean."



"I think it's great. I haven't even set foot into the ring yet and already that spaghetti-bender Sammartino is running away into retirement. Well, pretty soon Backlund will be doing the same thing, running away, and for good reason I can't really blame him. When Backlund runs from me, at least he's showing some brains."

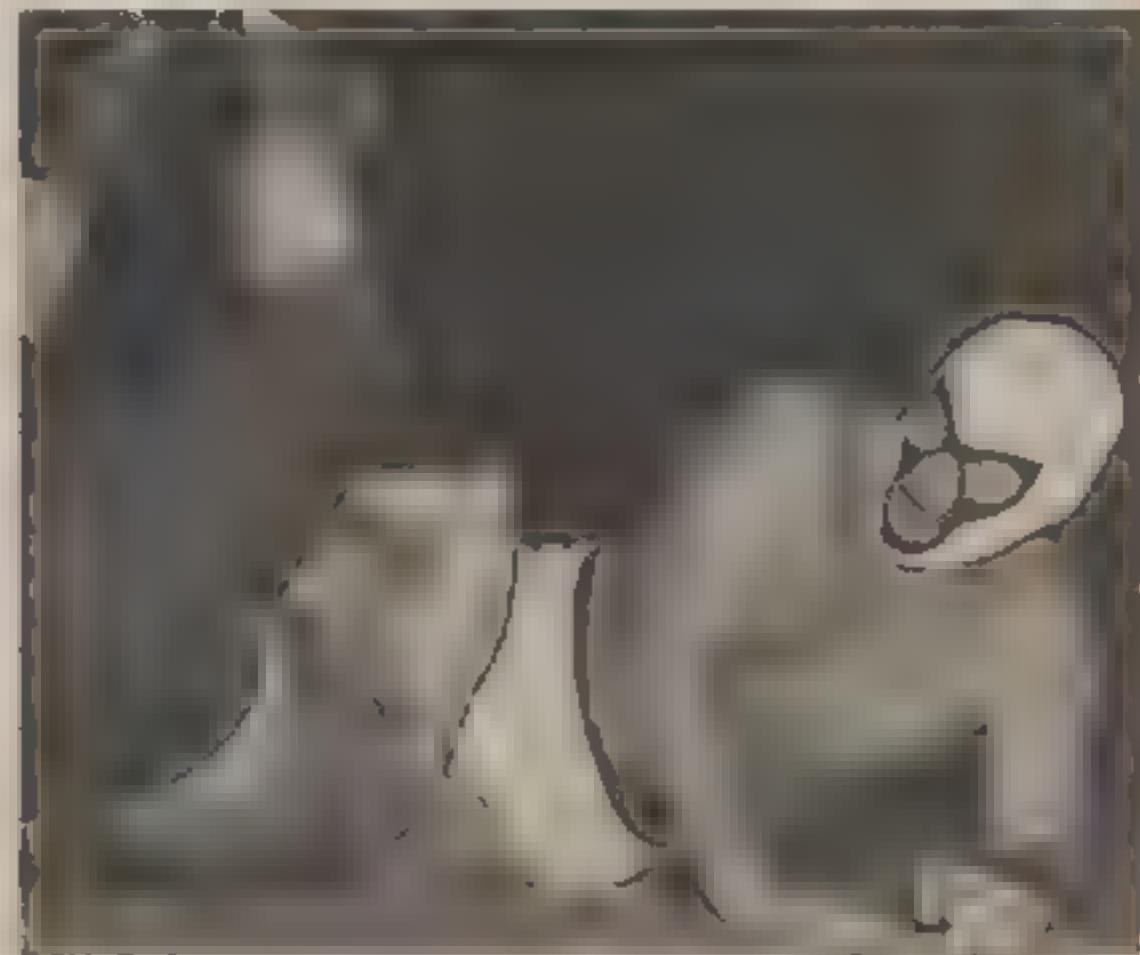


Continued on page 48.



Mr. Wrestling Reveals
WHY HE'S MOST WANT
OVER THE EDGE!

It was a change that shocked many fans and wrestlers alike: Mr. Wrestling II was turning bad. But had he really? Or was it all part of an intricate plan designed to test the strength of the wills of such men as Tommy Rich and Kevin Von Erich?



Mr. Wrestling II engages Mike Sharpe in a test of strength (left), traps Mr. Sonoda in a headscissors (above), and catapults himself toward John Studd (below.)

By Mr. Wrestling II

THE TIME HAS come for me to clear the air. Everywhere I go, everywhere I turn, people are asking me what's wrong. It seems as if everybody feels that something inside of me has snapped. They think I've changed in some way, that maybe I've gone over the edge. Well have it your way, folks. I'm here to explain why I almost went over the edge.

All too often, people think that someone has made a drastic reversal in his personality when simply another dimension of his attitude has been revealed. I think this is exactly the mistake that people made with me when they decided that I had changed my ways.

Do you know why people came to this conclusion? It's all because of that "Most Popular Wrestler"



contest in Georgia. When I appeared on television and was asked about that award, I answered honestly: of course I wanted that award. Sure, it would look nice on my mantlepiece. And maybe... just maybe... I would be able to swing a few votes my way by talking myself up a bit.

Is it a shame for a man to say what he feels? This is a basic question I put to everyone reading this right now: is that so much of a shame? I don't deny that I would like to win an award. I would be proud of myself if I did, and I'm not ashamed to admit that to anyone.

Furthermore, I ask you this: does verbal aggression necessarily mean physical aggression as well? In other words, just because I talk tough, does that mean I've turned bad? If speaking with conviction and determination are the

(Continued on page 66)

Ric Flair
vs. Harley Race

THE CHIEF OF
BEING A CHAMPION
IS BLOOD

PHOTOS BY
BILL APTER

DOCTORS SCRAMBLED TO close the wounds before too much blood was lost. At once, cleansing alcohol was brought in to swab the gash on his forehead and prevent infection. Fortunately, stitches were not necessary, but given a slightly more serious cut, they well might have been.

As more and more medical gauze was brought in to cover the wound, the bandages used to initially cover the head were discarded. Soaked in blood, they offered silent testimony to the carnage that had occurred scant minutes ago.

This grisly scene was repeated not once, but twice, as a drop for drop exchange of bloodshed marked Ric Flair's first NWA title defense against former six-time champion Harley Race.

"I've never seen anything like it," screamed one ringside observer. "Look at this boy Flair go! No sooner does he get the title and he's out defending it with more ferocious anger and berserk determination than Rhodes was able to pull together during the entire course of his championship reign!"

While the comparison to Rhodes may be exaggerated, the basic emotions at work here are strikingly apparent. Flair is indeed approaching his title defense with enough energy to single-handedly win a Battle Royal, and it is not surprising that his

opponents are fighting fire with fire . . . or in this case, blood with blood.

It was only a few days after Flair won the title from Rhodes in Kansas City, Missouri, that he found himself defending his new crown against Harley Race in Des Moines, Iowa . . . Ric Flair's first title defense. It

would set the pace for a series of early title defenses that have been earmarked by similar brutality and violence.

Prior to his first match as NWA champion, Ric Flair confessed some uneasiness about his new position.

"It's a strange thing, being champion," Flair said. "I've



Harley Race, who knows what sacrifices an NWA champion must make, reaches outside the ropes to punish current champion Ric Flair. Even Race admits that Ric is more than willing to pay the price

Ric Flair's first title defense as NWA champion took place against Harley Race. It was a match that Flair was geared up for . . . so much so, that what should have been a relatively calm title match transformed into an excruciatingly berserk bloodbath



Flair reaches way back to throw a right at Race's exposed and already bleeding face. Ric claims to be prepared to wrestle at this bristling pace night after night against the world's top competition.

held other titles, of course, the biggest being the U.S. championship. There's something different about the NWA title, though. It's a more demanding position, much more than the U.S. title. I guess you could call it something like the difference between being president and senator... as U.S. champ, I was like a senator. Now I'm president, and there's a whole new batch of responsibilities to be taken care of.

"I must admit, I'm a little nervous about this match tonight," Flair continued. "because now, I'm going to have to wrestle each match as if it were my last... because it very well may be. I'm going to be facing some of the most determined men in the sport. Take Harley Race, for instance. He's going to be my first match as champion tonight. Now, if anyone is more hungry for the title, I sure don't know about it. Harley is going

after a record-breaking seventh time as titleholder. It's something that would set him apart from any man that has ever wrestled before... even apart from the legendary Lou Thesz! Harley wants the title, and that's all there is to it. He's hungry and I'm going to have to give it my all out there if I want to hold on to this honor for more than a week!"

As the bell sounded marking the beginning of the

(Continued on page 65)

CLOSE-UP

TONY GAREA & RICK MARTEL



TONY GAREA AND Rick Martel are a class duo. They combine graceful aerial maneuvers with brute strength... Garea has held the WWF tag team title several times before with such great partners as Haystacks Calhoun, Larry Zbyszko, and Dean Ho... Martel, who used to prefer only singles bouts, uses a style that complements Garea's perfectly... Fans have voted them as two of the sport's sexiest men... They are two-time WWF champions, unseating both The Samoans and The Moondogs... Garea is from Auckland, New Zealand, and Martel is from Montreal, Canada... As a youngster, Martel idolized the great French

Canadian champion, Edouard Carpentier. Garea's hometown hero was former NWA champion Pat O'Connor... They spent endless hours in the gymnasium working out new tag team routines... Both of them would like to see Captain Lou Albano banned from the sport... Both have aspirations to win major individual titles some time in the future... Their immediate goal is to wrestle both the AWA and NWA tag team champions and reign supreme over the entire wrestling world... Both men love their fans and spend endless amounts of time doing charity work. □

CLOSE-UP

FAVORITE MANEUVER

"Any maneuver in which we can utilize our speed, agility, and teamwork is at the same time most effective and most satisfying," says Rick Martel. "Tony and I are so well-suited in the ring. We always know what the other is thinking and can take advantage of that with our physical compatibility."

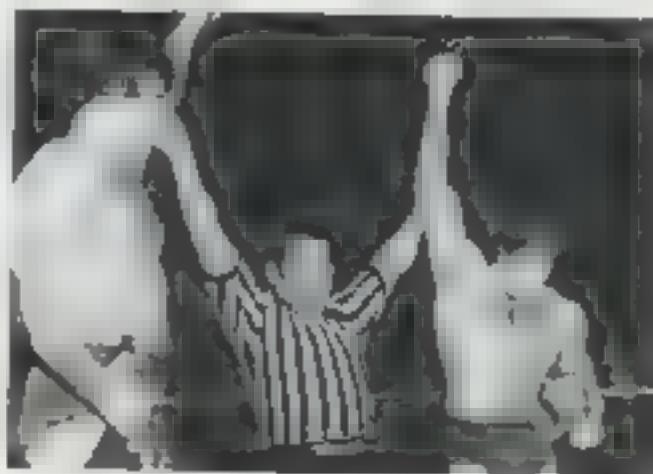


TOUGHEST OPPONENT

"The Samoans," replies Rick Martel. "Those two . . . savages . . . were about as fierce as they come. I think something inside Albano snapped when he was training those beasts, because they definitely came out of left field. But we did beat them to win the belts the first time, so that was a positive boost. I'm glad they're gone, though."

GREATEST MATCH

"That's pretty easy," maintains Tony Garea. "Without a doubt it would have to be when Rick and I regained our WWF tag team belts from The Moondogs. As Rick can tell you, they were a tough pair of wrestlers, wherever they came from! It was very satisfying to get our belts back from them."



MOST HATED

"Well, when you get right down to it," explains Tony Garea, "I would have to say that we both hate Mr. Saito, Mr. Fuji, and that maniac Albano most of all. Fuji and Saito are creating chaos all through the WWF, and they really don't deserve to be where they are today. We know that they're after our belts, but it'll be a cold day in hell when they get them."

★★★★★ Special Ballot ★★★★★

VOTE FOR THE TOP WRESTLERS OF 1981!

IT'S TIME FOR you to make a decision. Actually, it's time for you to make nine decisions: the Pro Wrestling Illustrated Fan Awards for 1981 are being decided at this very minute, and your vote must be counted!

Nine important categories will boast a winner who will be afforded the honor of undisputed recipient of the *Pro Wrestling Illustrated Fan Award*. It's an important distinction, because the winners are decided by the fans themselves, and not a partial assemblage of biased reporters or professionals.

Read carefully the descriptions of the categories that follow. Take the utmost care in making your decision and casting your vote. Then quickly mail in your ballot.

Results will be reported in the March 1982 issue, on sale January 12.

Remember Every vote counts. Be sure yours does, too. Mail in your ballot today.

THE CATEGORIES

- **Most Popular Wrestler of the Year:** In past years, such men as Andre the Giant, Wahoo McDaniel, and Mil Mascaras have won this honor. The object here is not to reward success, but the manner in which success is pursued. A man who is a good sport, adheres to the rules, treats fans with respect, is polite to referees, and gives unselfishly to outside causes is a good candidate for this award.



1980's Most Popular Wrestler
Mr. Wrestling II

Once again, we seek the opinion of the foremost experts of wrestling—the fans. It is time to honor the top achievements of 1981 in our annual poll, and we call upon the experts—you—to vote in each of the nine important categories. Remember, every vote counts!

- Rookie of the Year:** To qualify for this award, a wrestler must have started his career during the past year. Two criteria are considered: (1) The relative success the wrestler has had in the past year, and (2) The wrestler's potential for future success. Popularity is not a factor, but it's well known that a vote for rookie of the year may well be a vote for a future champion.



1980's Rookie of the Year
Terry Taylor

- Most Improved Wrestler:** This is a category designed to honor that wrestler who has shown the most improvement in ability and style over the past 12 months. The candidate must be either a scientific wrestler or a rulebreaker. The final decision should take into account any success whatsoever, whether it is gaining title shots or advancing up the contender ladder.



1980's Most Improved Wrestler
Tony Atlas



1980's Wrestler of the Year
Bob Backlund

- Wrestler of the Year:** What can we say? Probably the top honor of all. Talent is the pure criterion here. The Wrestler of the Year must reflect greatness in achievement, ability, and contribution to the sport. Yes, rulebreakers may apply. Quality of opponents counts heavily as well.



1980's Match of the Year
Bruno Sammartino vs. Larry Zbyszko

- Inspirational Wrestler of the Year:** This category bestows acclaim upon that man who has shown courage and tenacity in overcoming some obstacle, whether it is physical injury or the frustrations of psychology, confusion. The winner in this category must have displayed his rare courage for hundreds of other wrestlers and hundreds of thousands of wrestling fans.



1980's Inspirational Wrestler of the Year
Junkyard Dog

- Match of the Year:** A title change. A match that might have ended a superstar's career. A brilliant scientific encounter. The Match of the Year must be the most important and thrilling event of the year. It had to have taken place in a major arena before 5,000 fans or more. It doesn't necessarily have to be a title change, but the match must reflect the grace, power, and brilliance of this great sport.



1980's Tag Team of the Year
Jimmy Snuka & Ray Stevens

- Tag Team of the Year:** Once again, success is the ultimate criterion here. Good or bad, the top tag team must be that rare combination of wrestlers who have shown experience and skill in the ring. The trend in the past seems to be that rulebreakers have dominated the balloting, but it's up to you fans to decide whether that trend will continue this year.



1980's Most Hated Wrestler
Larry Zbyszko

- **Most Hated Wrestler:** This is the category in which you may vent your anger against those wrestlers whom you feel to be particularly obnoxious, or those who disgust you thoroughly. Is there a man who enjoys breaking bones? Does a wrestler like to see pain reflected in the eyes of his opponents? Does he flaunt his rulebreaking and make a mockery of the very sport he is participating in? Then he's a good choice for this award.



1980's Manager of the Year
Sir Oliver Humperdink

- **Manager of the Year:** Things like integrity and fair play, you'll be surprised to learn, are unimportant in the selection of this award. The effect that a manager has on his wrestlers, both in terms of a success and improved skills in the ring, must be considered. The manager of the year must be judged on the strategies he has formulated and the knowledge he has been able to pass on to his wrestlers. As well as a motivating taskmaster, the manager of the year must be an inspiration in and of himself. □

Official Fan Ballot

Here are my votes
for the Best of 1981



WRESTLER OF THE YEAR _____

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR _____

MATCH OF THE YEAR _____

**MOST IMPROVED WRESTLER
OF THE YEAR** _____

TAG TEAM OF THE YEAR _____

**MOST HATED WRESTLER
OF THE YEAR** _____

**INSPIRATIONAL WRESTLER
OF THE YEAR** _____

MANAGER OF THE YEAR _____

**MOST POPULAR WRESTLER
OF THE YEAR** _____

Send Ballot To:
"YEAR END VOTE"
c/o PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED
Box 48
ROCKVILLE CENTRE, N.Y. 11571

YOUR NAME _____

WRESTLING ENQUIRER

SGT. SLAUGHTER NEW U.S. KING Wins Over Injured Steamboat In Tourney

BY BILL APTEK

CHARLOTTE, NC In a tournament marred by disputes and injuries, Sgt. Slaughter emerged as the new U.S. champion.

The final match of this tournament saw Slaughter defeat the popular Rick Steamboat. Steamboat's leg had been injured earlier in a sneak-attack. Rick bravely tried to wrestle with the debilitating injury, but his mobility was badly hampered. Slaughter took advantage of the injury, mercilessly working on the injured limb.

After the match, Steamboat acknowledged that the injury required rest. Slaughter, meanwhile, is growing that he will remain U.S. champion forever.



Sgt. Slaughter made his point when he defeated an injured Rick Steamboat to win the vacated U.S. title.

and can't wait to show a fully heated Steamboat that the victory was no fluke.

The title was vacated when an injury to then-champion Wahoo McDaniel made it impossible for Wahoo to wrestle.

Masked Superstar Banned From U.S. Arenas

BY STEVE FARHOOIJ

ATLANTA, GA—Masked Superstar has been temporarily suspended from professional wrestling in the United States. The term of his suspension is still to be decided.

The ban stems from an incident between Masked Superstar and NWA representative George Scott. During a television interview, Superstar threatened the official. Scott replied that any attack on a wrestling representative will ensure Masked Superstar will be banned from wrestling in U.S. arenas. Superstar proceeded to rough up the official, who subsequently



Banned from U.S. rings for attacking NWA official George Scott, Masked Superstar is campaigning in Japan.

made good on his promise

Masked Superstar is currently wrestling in Japan. From there, he intends to cash his \$100,000.

Ex-Tag Champs Adonis & Ventura Go Solo—Together

BY CRAIG PETERS

WASHINGTON, DC—Ex-AWA tag team champions Adrian Adonis and Jesse Ventura are both negotiating to wrestle in the WWF, but not as a tag team. Instead, each man has chosen



Ex-AWA tag team champions Adrian Adonis and Jesse Ventura have come to the WWF to work as singles

to wrestle alone. There is no official explanation for their decision, and there is no final word as to whether they will resume their tag team careers in the WWF.

There is speculation that a rift exists between the pair, but no one seems to know the cause or why both men would leave the AWA at the same time. The pair recently lost their AWA belts to Jim Brunzell and Greg Gagne.

New Career For Gagne Keeps Him Close To Wrestling



Former AWA heavyweight champion Verne Gagne lends his expert commentary to AWA television broadcasts

BY STU SAKS

MINNEAPOLIS, MN—After nearly three decades of being one of wrestling's top stars, recently retired Verne Gagne has begun a new career as color commentator for AWA wrestling matches.

During the televised battles, Gagne analyzes the subtle nuances of the action. His insights explain to the viewer that the sport is far more complex than merely a test of strength.

As to why he chose to be a commentator, Verne said, "I found myself missing wrestling. I need to be around the sport. However, I didn't miss waking up in the morning and tending to bruises. You rarely get bruised being a commentator."

Verne should talk to WWF color commentator Pat Patterson about that.

Jaggers Refuses To Defend Southern Title

BY PETER KING

TAMPA, FL—After winning the Southern heavyweight championship, Bobby Jaggers has steadfastly refused to face any challengers.

Despite the fact that 138

wrestlers have formerly challenged him, Jaggers saw fit to accept only one challenger from a rookie. The match never occurred because the young man was in the hospital at the time, recovering from pneumonia. Jaggers won his only title defense by default.

Observers do not know why he refuses to defend his belt, but according to Jerry Briscoe, "Jaggers knows whom he can successfully defeat. That category seems to be limited to hospitalized rookies."



Bobby Jaggers has been a very inactive Southern heavyweight champion.

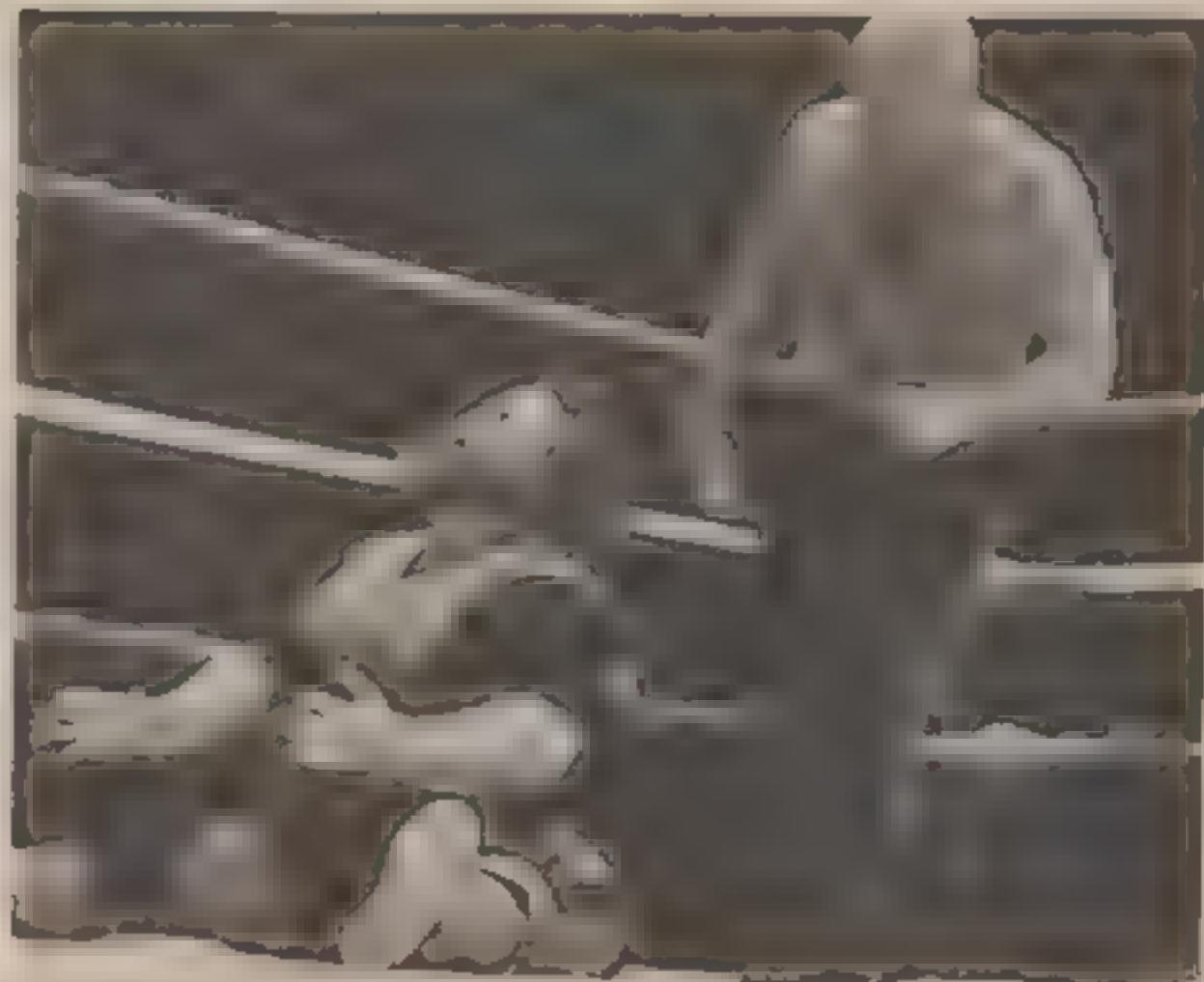
LOOKING AT . . .

Matt Brock:



I'LL TELL YOU my friends this holiday season is beginning to get to me I no sooner get through Thanksgiving with my bank account just about intact Farhood said he had some good tips for the turkey day contests

I swear, he's making kickback money somewhere) when Christmas is starting to breathe down my neck Before you know it New Year's Day will be here, and I'll lose another bundle on the bowl games



Baron Von Raschke has gone from being among the most despised to most beloved men in wrestling. The Baron squeezes the blood out of Dusty Rhodes' head with his dreaded Prussian Brain Claw (left) and works over Crusher Blackwell (above).

On top of all this upbeat sentiment, they tell me they want me to vent my spleen regarding one Baron Von Raschke. I'm not in a good mood to write favorably about him, but then he's never in a good mood when he steps into the ring, so I suppose we're even

This guy Von Raschke has been around for a while. He's wrestled all the names: Bob Backlund, Harley Race, Nick Bockwinkel, even Bruno. No one can ever say he's suffered from lack of title shots. Lack of titles, well, that's another story altogether.

BARON VON RASCHKE



He's what you might call a "wily veteran." Part of the old school of wrestling, he maintains his ties with the old country, having imported his bread-and-butter maneuver, the Prussian Brain Claw, from his native land.

I don't like him

Say what? "Come on, Matt, you're saying, "what are you telling us? Are you getting senile or something?" Okay, okay, so I realize that Von Raschke gets a lot of fan mail. I understand that a lot of you people admire him for what

he's doing about that Vachon incident. I just don't like him.

Mad Dog Vachon. Oh ... didn't hear? Well, what happened was that Crusher Blackwell and John Studd came along and decided to do a number on Mad Dog. Well, they took care of Vachon, all right, but they didn't bargain on the Baron coming through for his old friend in the clutch.

Before you know it, there's Von Raschke running roughshod all over the AWA, playing eight ball

with the heads of Blackwell and Studd.

Now, a lot of people think that the Baron is great because he's sticking up for his friend, because he's avenging a wrong perpetrated by Blackwell and Studd. Well, of Matt is telling you right now two wrongs don't make a right.

Catchy phrase, huh?

Come on, folks, wake up. You think the Prussian Brain Claw is anything to look at and admire? How can you say that in one breath, and then turn around and damn Muraco for his Asiatic spike?

Okay, I'll grant that I ~~never~~ expected the Baron to be the type who would stick up for another man so strongly ... but there has got to be an ulterior motive here somewhere. I'm just not sure where to look, and I really don't care. Just thinking about this guy has shot me out of my holiday mood so fast that I may very well gain a new reputation as the Scrooge of the Year, 1981.

Look, Farhood, only you have the power to pull me out of this slump. I'd better get some good tips for the bowls, or else you'll be "On Assignment" in Mongolia interviewing Killer Khan's grandmother!

Happy New Year!



Matt Brock simply does not trust Von Raschke. He has seen him try to man good men like Tom Atlas too many times before to believe he's now turned good.

KEN PATERA - MAN ON THE RUN... FROM HIMSELF

By Dr. Peter Lobato, PhD, PC

I WOULD FIRST like to thank the editors of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* for giving me this opportunity to express some ideas and opinions that I have been working on for some time. Being an ardent fan of wrestling I have fused this interest with my professional calling as a psychologist and have come up with what I feel to be some interesting theories regarding wrestlers in general, and some individual wrestlers in particular.

In this brief article, I would like to address myself to one particular individual: Ken Patera. I have been following his efforts over the past months with great interest. I find that psychologically, Mr. Patera is a fascinating individual.

Unfortunately, he also seems to be somewhat confused about who he is and where he intends to bring himself regarding his professional wrestling career.

Let's take a quick look at Mr. Patera's case history.

In the mid-'70s, Ken Patera began his professional career wrestling in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Soon thereafter, he



Ken Patera's travels brought him to New York, where he quickly became embroiled in a feud with Pat Patterson.

Why does Ken Patera continually work his way into a territory, establish himself, and then inexplicably move on at precisely the time when he should be attaining total mastery of that very territory? A noted psychologist examines Patera's recent actions and offers his analysis.



Patera grabs a handful of Kerry Von Erich's hair in St. Louis (left). Down in New Orleans, Patera lowers a bloody Dick Murdoch to the canvas after executing his swinging neckbreaker (above). And in Japan, Ken lowers the boom on Baba the Giant (bottom)



made a move to Texas. Unusual, because they are two diametrically opposing areas of the country, as different from each other as Maine is from California

Before you know it, though he is out of Texas and back up north, in Chicago. Now if he had made a move from Minneapolis to Chicago, that would be somewhat more understandable

But the fact that he see-saws back and forth between the North and the South in this way demonstrates a marked tendency for uncertainty. Indeed when he returns north he does not go back to Minneapolis, but rather to an area slightly different in nature. This indicates that after going to Texas he felt he needed to return to what he had left in the first place, but that he also wanted something slightly different as well.

From Chicago he moves to the Carolinas, then touring the entire East Coast only to return to a base in the Carolinas once more. Again, I analyze not only uncertainty, but a distinct conflict between the extra-curricular tendencies in this man.

At first he wants to stay in the Carolinas, maintain roots, settle down for a while. Then, he decides to travel; north and south along the coastline. Again the turnaround; another decision to stay rooted in the Carolinas. He does not know

whether to travel or to establish a firm connection in one place.

Then back to Texas, yet another search for some of the glory and security of his early years in wrestling. From Texas he moves to Atlanta where he spends an extended period of time, wins the Georgia title, and then vacates it of his own free will. At the time he cited "no competition" as the reason for his abandonment of the title, but I feel that the reason for this action run much, much deeper than that.

From Atlanta back to Texas yet again, and now to his original stomping ground of Minneapolis.

Look at this man: he starts in one area, moves away, maintains roots, tears them up and travels stops, again to settle down, travels once more to an area far away, returns back to his original area, leaves again, returns again. These are clearly not the actions of a stable personality.

After a careful analysis of the case history of Ken Patera and some off-the-record discussion

(Continued from Page 67)



WHAT THEY ARE SAYING

(Continued from Page 29)

EDDIE SULLIVAN

"Banned from wrestling in the entire United States. Can you believe that? And nobody can even tell me how long it's going to last. Just because I lost my temper against that NWA toadie George Scott on television they all want to get rid of me. Well, before long they'll realize how much they need me and beg for my return. If you ask me, though, it just isn't fair."



ROBERT ROSENSTEIN

"Ric Flair, Ric Flair, everyone wants to know what I think about Ric Flair. Well, let me tell you here and now, he's about as useful as a jackass in a bull riding competition. Why don't people ask me what I think about my chances of regaining the title are? I'll tell you this. Ric Flair is not going to last very long, no sir! Not if I have anything to say about it!"



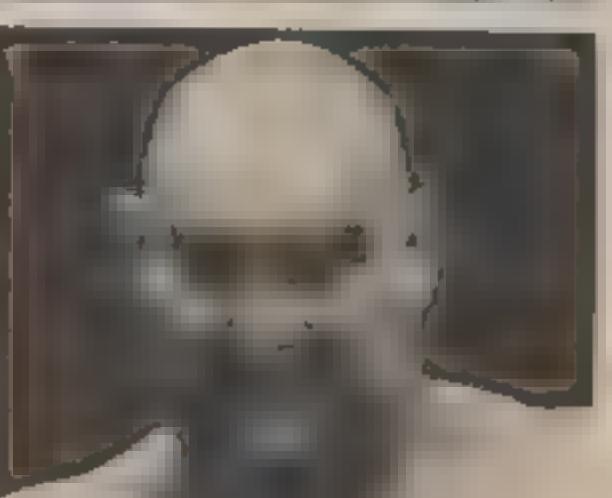
KEN PATERA

"Look at this colossal retard Hulk Hogan: all he's been doing is hanging around with clowns like Tito Santana and people like that. And he expects to flit his way to the AWA championship? He's got to be kidding. All he is is a gutless coward, that's it. If he keeps on this course, he'll never get anywhere at all, much less close to the title."



MIKE GRAHAM

"Dusty Rhodes is a pansy. You can see that clearly by the way he lost his title. It's shameful, if you ask me. He never deserved to be champion at all. And Mike Graham. Mike says he feels like he's wrestling at his best in one out of 10 matches. Well, he looks like he's at his worst in 10 out of 10! Graham and Rhodes. One is worse than the other!"



KING'S COURT

(Continued from Page 6)

realize I was in a fog."

Well, the fog has lifted. During the past few months there has been a vitality about Brisco's wrestling. In Florida Jack has become virtually unbeatable. His maneuvers are once again crisp and accurate. But this is a sport where being good is not enough. You've got to have proof.



Forever popular with fans old and young, Brisco takes the time to sign some autographs.

On the floor, right next to the magazine, was an impressive looking championship belt. It was the Missouri state strap and it currently belongs to Brisco. He had upset Ted DiBiase to win the title.

"This is a big step," said Brisco, gazing down at the jewel-studded piece of leather. "Everyone knows the Missouri title is a stepping stone to the NWA belt. Last time I won the Missouri title, I beat Race a few weeks later to become world champion. I'm looking for lightning to strike twice. So tell Ric Flair he'd better watch out."

As Brisco got ready to leave he scooped up the belt and the copy of PWI. While walking through the door, he turned over his shoulder and said, "I expect to see my name in the NWA ratings next month. And I promise it's going to stay there for a long, long time." □

THE OFFER OF A LIFETIME



PICTURE PACKETS OF WRESTLING'S GREATEST SUPERSTARS

ONLY \$5 FOR THE SET OF 10 PICTURES



Wrestling fans here is the opportunity you have been waiting for! Now YOU can own magnificent pictures of your favorite wrestlers. These photos were seen EXCLUSIVELY in our magazines, the best-selling, most-respected wrestling publications in the world.

Prior to this fantastic offer, you could not buy these photos FOR ANY PRICE. But now because of popular demand we are offering TWO exciting picture packets. Each packet contains ten different award-winning photographs.

Here's what you get: Photo Packet #1 features ten of the most honored wrestling action shots of all time. Photo Packet #2 contains the finest posed portraits ever taken of wrestling's top ten superstars. Remember each photo was chosen with exacting care from the Victory Sports Series files—by far the largest wrestling files in the world!

Each large photo 15" x 7" is printed on sturdy high-gloss heavy stock. Sure to bring you a lifetime of enjoyment, you can trade 'em, collect 'em, or use 'em to decorate your room or den. As supplies are limited and we are expecting a fast sell out, avoid disappointment and order your picture packets today!

HERE'S WHAT YOU RECEIVE:

\$5 Per Packet

Per Packet \$5

PHOTO PACKET #1 (Action Series)

GRAHAM VS. SAMMARTINO
ANDRE VS. TYLER
PITSKI VS. WOLFMAN
BRISCO VS. RACE
SAMMARTINO VS. TANAKA
BACKLUND VS. VON RASCHKE
STRONGBOW VS. THE EXECUTIONER
WRESTLING II VS. RACE
MASCARAS VS. THE OUTLAW
RHODES VS. KING CURTIS

PHOTO PACKET #2 (Portrait Series)

MR. WRESTLING II
IVAN PUTSKI
BOB BACKLUND
SUPERSTAR GRAHAM
BRUNO SAMMARTINO
CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW
JACK BRISCO
ANDRE THE GIANT
DUSTY RHODES
MIL MASCARAS

T.V. SPORTS, INC.
BOX 48
Rockville Centre, NY 11571

ACTION SERIES

Please rush me _____ picture
packets I have checked above.

I AM ENCLOSING \$5.00 FOR EACH PACKET I AM ORDERING.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

ONLY \$5 PER PACKET

PORTRAIT SERIES

Please rush me _____ picture
packets I have checked above.

DR. A.S. MAKES HIS PATIENTS SEVERAL INCHES TALLER

Dr. A.S. makes his patients several inches taller. He does this by giving them special exercises which help them grow taller. He also gives them special vitamins and minerals which help them grow taller. Dr. A.S. has helped many people grow taller, including himself. He is now over 6 feet tall.

SHORT STATURE?

Dr. A.S. has developed a special exercise program which helps people grow taller. He has helped many people grow taller, including himself. He is now over 6 feet tall.

ACT NOW!

Or get all THREE for just \$12.00

Physical Culture Products
Dept. (VST-44) Box 1548
Pompano Beach, Fla. 33060

SELF-DEFENSE

KUNG FU KARATE

Learn unbeatable fighting power
BLACK BELT INSTRUCTORS
NEW HOME STUDY COURSE
CERTIFICATE AWARDED
For details write
NEW ORIENT KARATE SCHOOL,
Dept. N-20-Box 5, Avon, N.J. 07717

BUILD MUSCLES

Build big muscles in just a few weeks. Our 12 week course includes instruction in weight lifting, diet, nutrition, and muscle building. For details send us a postcard to Muscle Big Ideas Dept. 700-19 Box 32007 Louisville, Ky. 40232

Birth Certificates \$2

DIPLOMAS WILLIS -
Maj. George E. Willis High School and College
Diplomas and Birth Certificates
Any 2 for \$2 All for \$5
Printed on
Envelopes
Awards
Certificates
from AATER FORMS 7471 Marconi Ave.
Dept. 1000 Los Angeles, CA 90048



WE'RE FIGHTING FOR YOUR LIFE

KINGSLIDE

(Continued from Page 8)



Chief Jay Strongbow, for years among the most popular wrestlers in the WWF is building a local following in the Mid South. Strongbow is in excellent shape and should work his way back into the ratings before long.

"You know Slaughter thinks he is hot stuff," Ricky says. "Well, he can't see me a buck private. He's gonna be pretty embarrassed when a man of his rank is beaten by buck private me!"

The Mid-Southern belt is now being worn proudly by Blackjack Mulligan Sr., after his victory over Big John Studd. Verne Gagne is doing occasional color commentary on the AWA TV wrestling shows. . . . There are no hard feelings between ex Missouri state champion Ted DiBiase and his conqueror Jack Brisco. As a matter of fact, they're contemplating teaming!

The Masked Superstar has been banned from wrestling in the United States for an indefinite period for hitting NWA official George Scott on a nationwide TV interview. How long he will be in exile is not known, but his lawyers are busy trying to get him reinstated.

Chief Jay Strongbow is wrestling in the Mid Southern area.

Fred Blassie is negotiating with Mid-Atlantic promoters on behalf of his client, Killer Khan. Bruiser Bob Sweetan, the Central States champion, is trying to eliminate "House of Humperdink" members, one by one. They include



Hussein Arab, stomping a helpless opponent with his allegedly loaded boot, is being managed by Scandor Akbar in Louisiana

Ten-Gu, Chang Chung Jim Dillon, and The Monk

Hussein "Iron Sheik" Arab is wrestling in Louisiana and Mississippi under the management of Scandor Akbar. "We are the perfect duo of talent and brains," Akbar states. "Together we will run cowards like Junkyard Dog and Mike George out of wrestling." By the way, Junkyard and George are one of the most talented tag teams to ever wrestle in the area.

Big Feud, former tag teammates Ted DiBiase and Bob Roop. Roop turned bad for the money and tried unsuccessfully to get Ted to join him. Feuds between former friends are always the worst... The Grand Wizard and Greg Valentine are convinced that Bob Backlund was left so tired by his long, grueling bouts with King Kong Mosca and Magnificent Muraco that Greg will definitely beat him for the WWF title. "Backlund is a shell of himself," says Wiz. "Easy pickins. Easy pickins."

Tommy Rich won Georgia's "Most Popular Wrestler" contest and he asked us to thank his legion of fans for him. It's done Tommy!

That's all for now. See you at the matches!

DRAW ANY PERSON in one minute! NO LESSONS! NO TALENT!



Artist's Description

NORTON PRODUCTS

Dept. A P.O. Box 112
New Rochelle, NY 10802

PHOTO ID

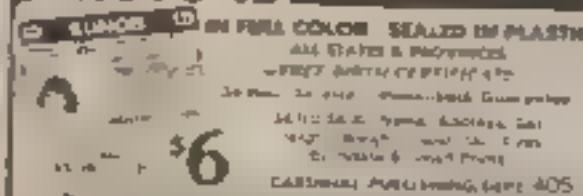


PHOTO ID

BETALLER

MAIL TO DEPT. 70009
Box 32307 Louisville, Ky. 40232



STRONG ARMS

make all the difference!

NEW

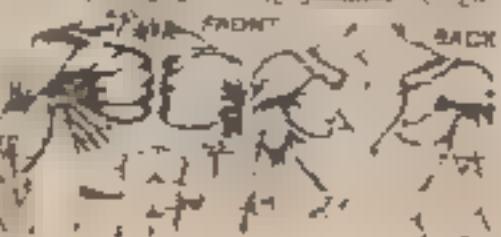
Almost like a miracle — this latest Amazing Muscleless Exercise discovery — MIKE MARVEL'S SCIENTIFIC ISO METRICS — will give you fantastic strength with muscles of steel without sweat or strain! Powerful arms, magnificently-powerful chest, powerful shoulders, strong stomach muscles and legs that will seldom tire! No Apparatus or Exercisers — your body is your own Gymnasium! This Secret System develops muscular strength 3 times faster than conventional methods!

ORDER NOW!

JUST 10 EASY MINUTES!

Scientific Isometrics is the modern way of stimulating muscles — takes just 10 minutes a day of easy exercises that will not tire you. No long hours of boring exercises with weights or costly apparatus. Isometrics is the amazing discovery of West German scientists who found a new thrilling way to build powerful strong muscles in 10 minutes a day. Each exercise is done for only 10 seconds a day! Completely illustrated.

MIKE MARVEL'S SCIENTIFIC ISO METRICS DEPT. 45 EACH VOLUME \$5.00
FROM HEAD TO TOE 3-MINUTE EXERCISES



EXPLOSIVE POWER

IN YOUR
HANDS & ARMS
with "Hammer Fist"



Start Instantly to Give you Sledge Hammer Striking Power and Strength. Hammer Fists weight 1.5 oz each. Arm builders buckle on your wrists so you can wear them anytime at work or play.

Reinforce Your Power Build Your Strength Silently without any special effort hour by hour day by day your arms grow to new fearsome sledge hammer power. Just wearing "Hammer Fists" give you the proud masculine feeling that says "I can take care of myself."

WARNING: Hammer Fists are intended only to improve the strength of the arms. They should not be worn during any fight, martial arts, boxing or physical contact sports. The weight added to the arm increases the danger of serious injury to the arm.

The Hammer Fist power packed weighted weight of 1.5 oz. If you don't see immediate and growing improvements in this time and throughout your use. If you don't instantly feel more powerful more explosive, more capable, more flexible, then get a full refund. The full price being \$4.98 plus \$1.00 shipping & handling. Hammer Fist Dept. 26449 P.O. Box 1164, Bellmore, N.Y. 11710

ONLY
\$5.00

NOTHING
ELSE TO
BUY!

MAIL NO-RISK TRIAL COUPON NOW!

Mike Marvel Dept. 45 160 Amherst Street
East Orange, New Jersey, 07019

I enclose \$5.00 Send me your entire Scientific Isometric Dynatex System in one book which includes a chapter on "SECRETS OF ATTRACTING GIRLS." I must agree that the Dynatex method has given me powerfully toned muscles, put hell strength in my muscles. made me so strong that I can be proud to show my friends how strong I am. And it need do this with 10 minutes a day—with nothing else to buy—now or in the future. I get my \$5.00 back—with no questions asked upon return of the book.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

SOLD ON MONEY BACK GUARANTEE.

VERY RARE BACK ISSUES

ONLY \$5 EACH

THE ORIGINAL WRESTLING REVUE

ONLY \$5 EACH

All the back issues of the ORIGINAL WRESTLING REVUE listed for sale in this advertisement were edited and published by Stanley Weston, who founded Wrestling Revue in 1960 and sold his interests in the magazine in 1964. These extremely rare back issues have not been available to the public for more than 15 years, although many have been sold by private collectors for as much as 75 dollars per copy. This is a rare opportunity for those of you who collect and treasure truly fine wrestling magazines of great historic importance at a price you can afford. Most of these issues contain magnificent full color pin up portraits of the world's greatest wrestlers, some of whom are still alive. The supply of these collector's treasures is very limited so order today and avoid disappointment.

ALL SALES FINAL NO EXCHANGES OR REFUNDS WILL BE MADE

WRESTLING REVUE

- SPRING 1961
- SUMMER 1961
- FALL 1961
- WINTER 1961
- DECEMBER 1961
- FEBRUARY 1962
- APRIL 1962
- JUNE 1962
- DECEMBER 1962
- FEBRUARY 1963
- APRIL 1963
- JUNE 1963
- DECEMBER 1963
- FEBRUARY 1964

SEND TO
T V SPORTS
BOX 48
ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NY
11571

Please rush me the issues of WRESTLING REVUE I have checked. I am enclosing \$5.00 for EACH copy

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

DRESSING ROOM CONFIDENTIAL

(Continued from Page 10)



Referee Bobbi Lane is helped by Dory Funk Jr. and a ringside official after being viciously attacked by Cyclone Negro in 1973. The NWA has finally recognized its responsibility to protect its own referees.

NWA is taking steps to stop outside-the-ring brawling. If two wrestlers begin to battle next to the ring, the match will be stopped and a double disqualification declared. This is a wise move. Serious injuries caused by the use of chairs, ringposts and other dangerous objects can now be avoided.

Number four is another important point. While enforcement of this old rule will prevent a man like Harley Race from delivering his devastating flying headbutt from the top rope, wrestling fans will be deprived of seeing a man like Mil Mascaras make his spectacular daring dives. But again, this rule should cut down on unnecessary injuries.

Of all the points brought out at the meeting, I am most pleased about the final two. They get right to the crux of the problem. If referees are not able to enforce the rules without fear of retaliation from somebody twice their size, the rules can be clarified from now until the end of time, and nothing will change.

I would like to see more men disqualified for repeated usage

of fists or choking or karate chops to the throat, but unless the NWA protects its own referees, this can never happen. If the NWA safeguards the referees by enforcing rules eight and nine, the referees will better be able to enforce points one through seven.

While I commend the NWA for calling a meeting of such magnitude to discuss a problem it has continually downplayed, I strongly object to the Alliance blaming the lack of order within the rings on the referees. The inadequacies lie within its own organization. In the past, the NWA has been unwilling to enforce even some of its most basic rules. If its new approach is successful, perhaps the AWA and WWF will follow suit.

In a matter of a few years, the sports rulebreakers will become frustrated with constant disqualifications, fines, and suspensions. They will be forced to either alter their style or leave the sport entirely. If the sport of wrestling is serious about its own rulebook, now is the time to show it. Brighter days could be ahead. □

REST BY MAIL

Rates: Write National, Box 5, Sarasota, FL 33578

OF INTEREST TO ALL

TV TRIVIA Quiz Oval: \$30 Train Passes, Guaranteed
to provide hours of fun. \$25 Casella 944-33-
Lafayette, Spartanburg, SC 29302
WOW! GREAT GIFT Old & very similar \$3.95 Rare
Coins. Box 3323 Oxford, AL 36203

MONEYMAKING OPPORTUNITIES

BOY DINE \$100 Thousand stuffing envelopes. Guaranteed program E to be addressed 4741 46th
Ave., Nationwide Makers, Box 3, Indianapolis
Ind. 46227

FANTASTIC earnings guaranteed mailing circulars.
Free ad. \$100,000.00. 1670 N. Hwy. DeLois, North
Carolina, Box 7364, Ft. Myer, VA 20334

MAKE \$2,728.00 Monthly or more. Making
New Letters. P.O. Box 5740, V. J. M. Enterprises
Box 904, 65, Rosedale, MD 21463

\$2,000.00 WEEKLY of new envelopes? NoWay Box
24987, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33355

BIG MONEY Fast Technique \$100. Box 2076,
Arlington, VA 22204

PERSONAL-MISC ELLANEOUS

BATTERY ADDITIVE re. Father SASE \$2.00
Formula, P.O. Box 774, Ft. Myers, FL 33901

EXC TING, romantic Oriental Latin girls. We
have the best Free photos Paradise, Box 104H-V,
Anaheim, CA 92702

WORLD'S LARGEST & AM. most abundant person
size 7' 10". 100% of the time. Box 399, Ft.
Lauderdale, 33346

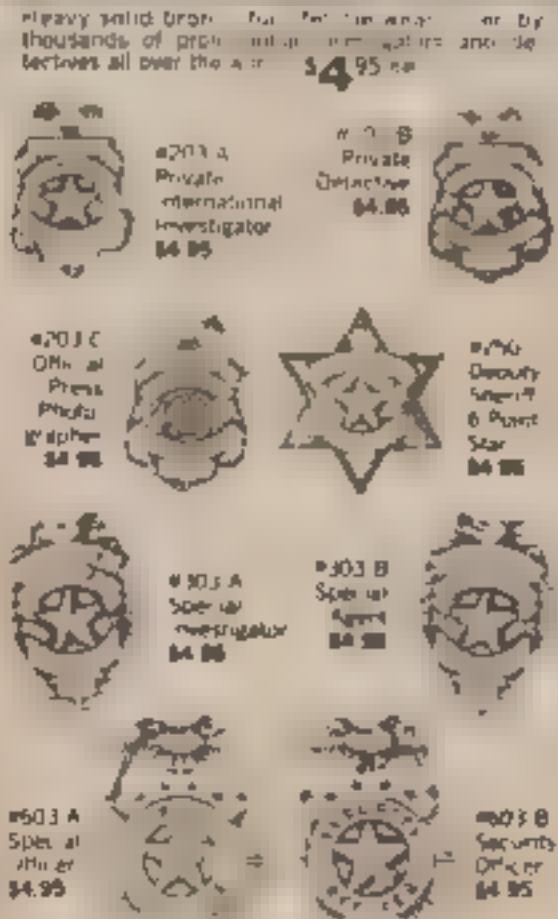
CANCER Breakthrough. 100% A.M. Doctor. Box
3, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33304

WTENGRAPH 100% New. Box 214, Monroe, Learn Now
Box 2, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33304

EARN \$3000 + MONTHLY

100% WIN with home business showing, check
today. Only 30% initial investment, help and tips
the latest dehydration natural foods information, and
so much more all included in easiest of money
to make and profitable. New 2nd ed. 2000
CHARLES FROSS P.O. Box 21, VSG
Seminole, Florida 33776

SOLID BRONZE PROFESSIONAL WALLET BADGES.



Regulation Badge Case. Display your badge
in an official manner. \$4.95

Send name, address, 5 style & desired print, name
N.Y.C. D.D. & A.C. 100% postage & handling.
SAVE ANY TWO ITEMS \$9.95

FREE WITH ORDERS ONLY - Catalog of police and
detective equipment unusual items.

POLICE EQUIPMENT CO., Dept. 4111
7471 Melrose Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90046

ON ASSIGNMENT

(Continued from Page 12)

exactly what I meant

"Yup, much worse," he replied, his eyes glued to the red- and yellow-striped design on the placemat. "Losing to Race, well, I could almost live with that. At least the guy's a pro, a guy who paid his dues, you know what I mean? I'm no fan of Race, you know that. But he doesn't exactly disgrace the title either. But losing to Flair . . ." He paused several seconds before continuing. I thought I saw his Adam's apple bob up and down in his throat. "I don't know. I just don't know."

"Flair is all glamour, all flash and no substance. You may not believe this, but I was actually overconfident going in against him. Me, Dusty Rhodes, who takes every battle carefully, a veteran who knows you can't underestimate anyone in this crazy business. I even load up my Winchester when I spot a cockroach in my house. But against Flair I wasn't really prepared. It's awfully lonely at the top, and when you need someone to help you sort things out . . . well, someone's not always there."

The next question seemed obvious to me. And Dusty knew I was going to ask it. At this precise moment, we were thinking on the exact same wavelength.

"Are you saying that when you are a challenger, you had more friends, more support, more help from the fans?"

"Sure," he answered. "Everyone loves the underdog. You should've seen the cards and letters I got after Flair took the title. Outnumbered the letters I got when I won the title by 3-1. I'm the American Dream again now. Everyone loves me. Everyone loves the loser."



The instant Rhodes captured the NWA belt for the first time, a big change came over the man. No longer would he be content to be just the fans' favorite; Dusty got a taste of what it meant to be the best in the world and he wants to get that feeling back again.

Rhodes lifted his head and finished his third glass of milk. His eyes were shut. I was sure that if he had opened them tears would've been waiting to fall.

I always valued the fans more than anything," he continued. "I always said I'd rather have them than any title. Well, I was wrong. After tasting the title, I know that's what was put on this earth to have. I hope the fans don't misunderstand this. I still appreciate them, but they all love a loser. And Dusty Rhodes stopped being a loser the first time they raised his hand and called him a champion."

I was speechless. So was he. We both sat without saying a word. □

BONUS! **Pocket™ Math-Wizard™**

With MaxiBook

Get the Right Answers in a Flash Without Paper or Pencil

Determinable Math Flash Cards help you quickly find answers when you can't get them from percentages and the like. The cards are numbered to solve the longest math problems quickly.

MADE SIMPLE MATH Self Teacher

**New Short Cut Math
Skills in Only Weeks—
10 minutes a day
for Higher Payoffs**

VALCO Publishing Co. • Dept. 77
Box 202, New Rochelle, N.Y. 10802

WHY I'M A UNITED WAY VOLUNTEER



Home: Seattle, Washington
Career: Admissions counselor
Interests: Drama, writing, traveling, and volunteering for animal rescue

Because Jaded Way is a volunteer organization that works. It's made up of all kinds of people - volunteers working together and making tough decisions. At first the community here didn't believe in volunteering for Jaded Way. Now they do. Jaded Way is more than what it ask of myself - what I owe myself and my community.

Thanks to you. I won't
try AL OF US.



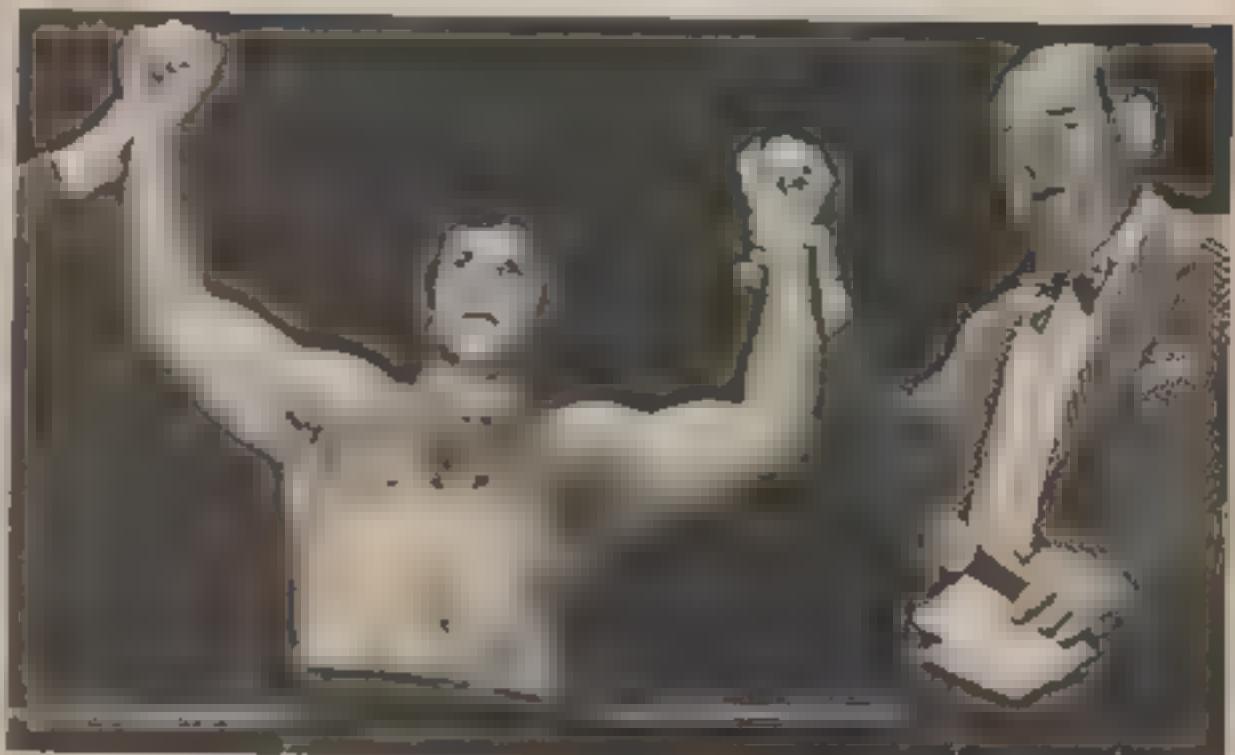
United Way

Support the
March of Dimes
BIRTH DEFECTS FOUNDATION



PRESS CONFERENCE

(Continued from Page 25)



A common sight throughout his glorious 22-year career, Bruno Sammartino has his arms raised in victory. Bruno wanted to get out of the sport while he was still on top.

said for being that champion, but I've been there twice already, and I've been there the longest. No, it's time for me to step aside. There have been a lot of great wrestlers in the past, and there are going to be a lot more in the future. What makes this sport great is that there are a lot of great men involved at the same time, you know? Unfortunately, there are also a lot of despicable men involved, too.

SAKS. Who do you rate as some of the great wrestlers of today?

SAMMARTINO: Well, Bob Backlund is the WWF champion now, and I think he's really deserving of the honor. He is a fine champion, and he has the attitude that a champion has to have. I hope his title reign lasts for a long, long time. Then there's always Mil Mascaras, the king of the masked wrestlers as far as I am concerned. He is amazing. He is so strong, and at the same time so scientifically gentle, and that combination is very impressive. He is an athlete

in every sense of the word.

BROCK: How about Bruno Jr.? **SAMMARTINO:** Ah, yes, my son. I am very proud of what Bruno Jr. has been doing. He is developing into a superb wrestler, and I feel that with the proper guidance he will become the champion someday. Since I am retiring, I hope to be able to devote some time to helping my son along the way.

FARHOOD: Bruno, Your last match was against George "The Animal" Steele. How did you prepare for that historic match?

SAMMARTINO: I really didn't do anything different. Steele is a maniac, and that's all there is to it. One correction, though, Steele was my last *American* match. In a few days, I'll be off to Japan for a short farewell tour, and then . . . *a rivederla*, wrestling!

SAKS: Bruno, thank you for being with us on "Press Conference." Best of luck in the future.

SAMMARTINO: Thank you, Stu. And thank you America for 22 years of loyal support. □

**SPECIAL OFFER TO OUR CUSTOMERS
VERY RARE BACK ISSUES TO COMPLETE
YOUR COLLECTIONS-\$5 per copy**

INSIDE WRESTLING

<input type="checkbox"/> March 1972	<input type="checkbox"/> March 1973
<input type="checkbox"/> July 1972	<input type="checkbox"/> April 1973
<input type="checkbox"/> November 1972	<input type="checkbox"/> May 1973
<input type="checkbox"/> January 1973	<input type="checkbox"/> July 1973
	<input type="checkbox"/> September 1973
	<input type="checkbox"/> December 1973

THE WRESTLER

<input type="checkbox"/> April 1969	<input type="checkbox"/> June 1973
<input type="checkbox"/> January 1972	<input type="checkbox"/> January 1974
<input type="checkbox"/> April 1972	<input type="checkbox"/> February 1974
<input type="checkbox"/> June 1972	<input type="checkbox"/> October 1974
<input type="checkbox"/> August 1972	<input type="checkbox"/> March 1975
<input type="checkbox"/> April 1973	<input type="checkbox"/> April 1976
<input type="checkbox"/> May 1973	

SPORTS REVIEW

Annual Spring 1977
 October 1977

SPECIAL ISSUES

Big Book 1968
 Annual 1972 #2
 Annual 1973 #6
 Annual 1974 #7

For fastest delivery payment should be made by money order. Allow an additional 2 weeks for delivery when payment is made by personal check. While we will accept cash payments, it must be understood that we are not responsible for cash sent through the mail. Do not send coins!

SPECIAL BACK ISSUE ORDER FORM

T.V. SPORTS, INC.
BOX 48
ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NY 11571

\$5 per copy

Please send me the rare back issues I have checked. I am enclosing \$5.00 for EACH copy I am ordering, which includes all shipping and postage charges.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

BE SURE TO LIST SUBSTITUTE CHOICES

In case you are sold out of the issues I have checked, I will accept any of the following rare back issues as substitutes.

Substitute #1 _____ Substitute #3 _____

Substitute #2 _____ Substitute #4 _____

BOB BACKLUND

(Continued from Page 28)

in the WWF. I realize that this may occasionally lead to what some people might consider to be unfair decisions, but I'm afraid that for the sake of consistency and the rules, that is the way it must be. Once the



Muraco pulls back on Backlund's chin, exposing the champion's throat to his Asiatic spike. Many fans don't care how Backlund keeps his title as long as he keeps it away from men like Muraco.

referee makes a ruling, it is final, and is unable to be altered in any way, shape, or form."

Yet the questions remain: Do the referees purposely favor Bob Backlund? Do they see these infractions of the rules and choose not to recognize their existence? Do they subconsciously want to see him remain as champion?

Unfortunately, the mere fact that these questions are asked clouds an otherwise brilliant championship reign. And until they are no longer being asked, Bob Backlund may never receive his deserved credit as one of the sport's all-time greats. □

Ric Flair— Harley Race

(Continued from Page 34)

match, Flair came out of his corner fulfilling the promise he had made to himself. He did in fact give it his all, and Race was the first to realize this.

Race was, as well, the first to bleed in this contest of brutality. Scrambling to defend himself throughout the course of the match, Flair was too aggressive, breaking through Race's defenses and deeply wounding his head.

Angered by the fact that he had allowed himself to be cut in this way, Race retaliated with a vengeance. He cracked Flair's head open, virtually blinding the new champion from the blood streaming into his eyes. In turn, Flair became angered as well and recovered to defend his new title.

"He has got to expect to be bloodied if he is going to defend his title like that," said Race after the match. "If a wrestler is going to be so aggressive that he is going to draw blood each defense, then he must expect to be bloodied in turn. It's the price one pays for being that aggressive, though I must admit, Flair seems willing to pay the bill."

Soon after that match in Des Moines, a title defense against Tommy Rich in Columbus, Ohio, also developed into a bloody melee. It seems as if Flair's early defenses are beginning to form some sort of pattern.

"I'm determined to keep this title," Flair growled, "and I'll defend it against anyone who tries to stand in my way. You can count on that."



MUSCLES! HOW TO BUILD A POWERFUL BODY

Fabulous Muscle Pumping Methods that stimulate muscular growth!

How You Can Have:

- More Strength • Bigger Arms
- Wider Shoulders • Lose Fat
- Gain Muscular Weight • Powerful Chest • Trimmer Waist

Universal Bodybuilding
Box 5434, Dept. T-3
Detroit, Michigan 48248

Send for FREE BOOKLET.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

MAIL THIS COUPON TODAY!

SPEED-UP GROWTH! Moustache or Beard



New product helps facial hair grow thicker, faster! Specially formulated for fast results. Acquire an attractive, manly image.

Free details. Act Now!

Write:

DYNAMIC HAIR
BOX 2881-J
HARLINGEN, TEXAS 78551

TURN YOUR
TIMBER INTO
CASH!



Goes right to the TREES!

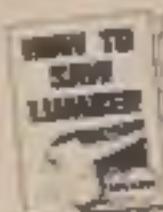
The only **ONE-MAN
PORTABLE SAWMILL**
of its kind
in the world . . .

... and still worthy of its 50-Year
reputation for turning out accurately
cut lumber at a LOW-COST!

If you're needing good, high-quality lumber don't let today's inflated lumber prices stop your important building projects. Take the Belsaw right to the trees and turn out foot-after-foot of smooth, true-cut lumber . . . even beginners get excellent results. For power use your tractor PTO or other gas, diesel or electric unit as small as 25-HP. Our factory-direct selling keeps the price low, and convenient time payments may be arranged.

And the Belsaw can earn you **EXTRA CASH!** Just one man (no crew needed) can easily saw enough on weekends to **SAVE** hundreds of dollars over high lumberyard prices. But you can also Cut-and-Saw for others or sell the lumber produced from your timber and **EARN** excellent cash income—with a Belsaw the choice is **YOURS**. And when **YOU** are the Boss **YOU** pick the hours to work and **ALL** the profits go in **YOUR** pockets.

Send TODAY for FREE BOOKLET!



Just mail coupon for "How To Saw Lumber" Booklet and complete facts on the One-Man Sawmill. Send to:
Belsaw One-Man Sawmill
1424 Belsaw Building
6301 Equitable Road
Kansas City, Missouri 64120

There is NO Obligation and
NO Salesman Will Call!

BELSAW ONE-MAN SAWMILL
1424 Belsaw Building
6301 Equitable Road
Kansas City, Missouri 64120

Please send all info and details
FREE "How To Saw Lumber" Booklet. I understand there is
No Obligation and that No Salesman will call on me.

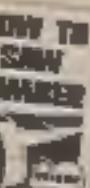
NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

**FREE
BOOKLET**



A BONANZA FOR COLLECTORS

The Only Back Issue Of
The Famous WRESTLING
ILLUSTRATED Still Available!

WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED, the 1965 classic wrestling magazine, is one of the most highly sought after collector's items. But if you act immediately, you can STILL buy a few of its best and most classic



Feb/65
PEPPER COMELL

Pinups are listed under each issue.

issues! There is only a limited supply available, and those are going quickly. THE GIANT POSTER PIN-UP PICTURES IN FULL COLOR are just one of the many attractions of WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED.

Each copy of WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED will soon increase in value by up to \$10. Buying a copy of this classic magazine now is a golden investment. You can't go wrong, so order now!



March/65
ARGENTINA APOLLO

NOW ONLY \$2 EACH

T.V. SPORTS, INC.
Box 48
Rockville Centre, NY 11571

Please rush me the back issues of WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED I have checked below. I am enclosing \$2 for each issue.

Feb. 1965 March 1965

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Mr. Wrestling II

(Continued from Page 31)

earmarks of a bad guy, then I thought . . . maybe three months or more. Slowly, and almost imperceptibly, alter my actions. Change them ever so slightly with each appearance. Begin to make the change from scientific wrestler to rulebreaker. In actuality, appear to make the change.

But I've been avoiding the real reason about why I almost went to extremes in my personality. It is that question to which I would now like to address myself.

For many, many years, a lot of people have put a great amount of faith in me and my work. They look up to me as a man who exhibits honor and loyalty, who adheres to impeccable standards of fair play.

As the recipient of such faith, I feel I owe a special debt to those people who place their faith in me. They feel that I should be the conscience of wrestlers in my area. So be it. I decided to organize a special test for men like Tommy Rich, Kevin Von Erich, and Bruno Sammartino Jr.



II, bodyslamming Studd, regrets his recent bad behavior, but feels it was a necessary test for Georgia's young scientific wrestlers.

My mail indicates that people believe I set the standard for men like Rich, Von Erich, Sammartino, and many others. If I go off the track, they tell me, these others are likely to follow. I am, in their words, a pace-setter. I decided to see how much of a standard-bearer I actually am.

I devised what I felt to be a foolproof plan. Take some time, I

thought . . . maybe three months or more. Slowly, and almost imperceptibly, alter my actions. Change them ever so slightly with each appearance. Begin to make the change from scientific wrestler to rulebreaker. In actuality, appear to make the change.

I wanted to know, both for myself and for my fans, exactly how far someone like Tommy Rich or Bruno Jr. would follow in my footsteps. I didn't know quite what to expect, and I sure didn't expect what soon happened. But I am pleased with the results of my test.

I am happy to report that neither Tommy Rich nor Kevin Von Erich nor Bruno Jr., nor any of the other wrestlers I was keeping my eyes on during this time wavered from their scientific styles. They did not follow me into the black areas of rulebreaking. I am proud to say that all these men remained steadfast in their beliefs, and did not change one bit in the face of my own changes.

Furthermore, some of these men even expressed concern over the state of my own affairs. For this I am doubly proud, and these men (they know who they are) should be proud of themselves.

Now some readers may say "who are you to take matters into your own hands? What right do you have?" Well, I was implored by hundreds of letters to do something similar to this test, this ideological gauntlet. The precise form of testing was something that I had to come up with myself.

I would finally like to take this opportunity to publicly congratulate everyone I have mentioned in this article, and particularly Tommy Rich, Kevin Von Erich, and Bruno Jr. Stand proud, gentlemen, you've proven your worth beyond a shadow of a doubt . . . to the world. □

KEN PATERA

(Continued from Page 47)



Patera defends his Georgia title against Dusty Rhodes this past June. Patera stayed in the area for a few months and then inexplicably forfeited his belt and left the area. The former Olympian will not establish himself for any length of time in one area.

with my colleagues, I've come to the conclusion that Mr. Patera is suffering from what I've termed *cacoethes absentia*. Strictly translated, it means "a mania for absence." Applied to the case in question, it means that Mr. Patera has an irresistible tendency to run away from himself.

Obviously, upon the most cursory analysis, this man can't possibly run from himself. He may try in the physical sense by continually uprooting himself and engaging in a constant change of venue. Psychologically, however, he is trapped within himself, unable to escape whatever deep problems may be troubling him and, in turn, causing him to act in this manner.

I cannot begin to speculate on the nature of these troubles. I

have not had the opportunity to sit down and discuss the situation with Mr. Patera, though I hope that someday I might have the opportunity to do so.

I can, however, say with some certainty: Ken Patera is a deeply troubled man trying to escape from himself. It is a situation that can only continue unless he comes to grips with whatever it is that continues to gnaw at his subconscious psyche. It is a situation that could be reversed and taken care of, but only Ken Patera has the power to initiate that sort of a change. Both personally and professionally, I feel that working towards that goal would be a great step in the right direction.

I feel you've got a long, hard road ahead, Ken. I wish you luck on your journey. □

EVERY BACK ISSUE
SOLD SEPARATELY

THE ORIGINAL BOXING ILLUSTRATED WRESTLING NEWS

ONLY \$5 EACH

All the back issues of the original BOXING ILLUSTRATED WRESTLING NEWS listed for sale in this ad were edited and published by Stanley Weston, who founded the magazine in 1958 and sold his interests in 1964. Each issue contains an exciting wrestling section, crammed with thrilling photos and award-winning stories. No wrestling fan can call his magazine collection complete without these back issue treasures. Remember, these back issues have not been available to the public for over 15 years, although many have been sold by private collectors for as much as \$75 a copy. Naturally, the supply is limited, so order today and avoid disappointment.

ALL SALES FINAL. NO EXCHANGES OR REFUNDS CAN BE MADE

BOXING ILLUSTRATED WRESTLING NEWS

<input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 1959	<input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 1962
<input type="checkbox"/> Mar. 1959	<input type="checkbox"/> Jan. 1963
<input type="checkbox"/> April 1959	<input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 1963
<input type="checkbox"/> May 1959	<input type="checkbox"/> June 1963
<input type="checkbox"/> June 1959	<input type="checkbox"/> July 1963
<input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 1959	<input type="checkbox"/> Sept. 1963
<input type="checkbox"/> Sept. 1959	<input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 1963
<input type="checkbox"/> July 1961	<input type="checkbox"/> Nov. 1963
<input type="checkbox"/> Mar. 1962	<input type="checkbox"/> Jan. 1964
<input type="checkbox"/> April 1962	<input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 1964
<input type="checkbox"/> July 1962	<input type="checkbox"/> Mar. 1964
<input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 1962	<input type="checkbox"/> May 1964
<input type="checkbox"/> Nov. 1962	<input type="checkbox"/> July 1964

SEND TO:
T.V. SPORTS
BOX 48
ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NY
11571

Please rush me the issues of BOXING ILLUSTRATED/WRESTLING NEWS I have checked. I am enclosing \$5.00 for each copy.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____